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BILLY BAT 1 浦沢直樹 …… 長崎尚志

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KEVIN YAMAGATA
BILLY BAT
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Naoki Urasawa + Takashi Nagasaki Presents
The character of the bat was popular
in United States after 1987's.
It is the mystery bat which continues affecting
the darkness of the history.

モーニング
KC1812

BILLY BAT 1

浦沢直樹
+ストーリー共同制作
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of the human history.

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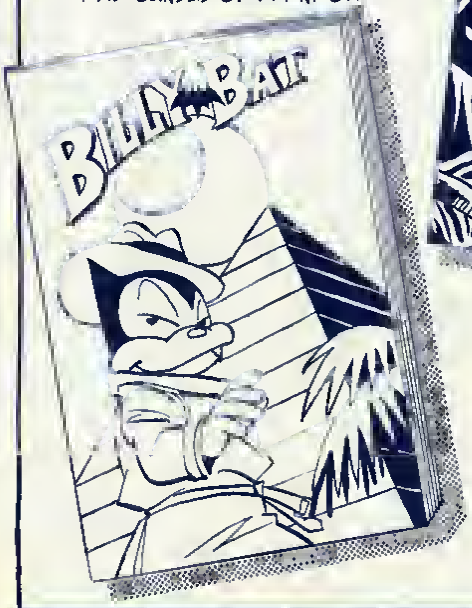
BILLY BAT

これまでのビリーの冒険の数々！
手に汗握るアドベンチャー！

THE BIGGEST NEWS IN COMICS!

ビリーバット ファラオの呪い

BILLY BAT
AND CURSES OF PHARAOH



ビリーバットの ジャングル探検

BILLY BAT
GOES TO JUNGLE

...AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE MOST COMICS SERIES!

THANK YOU!
SOLD OUT!!

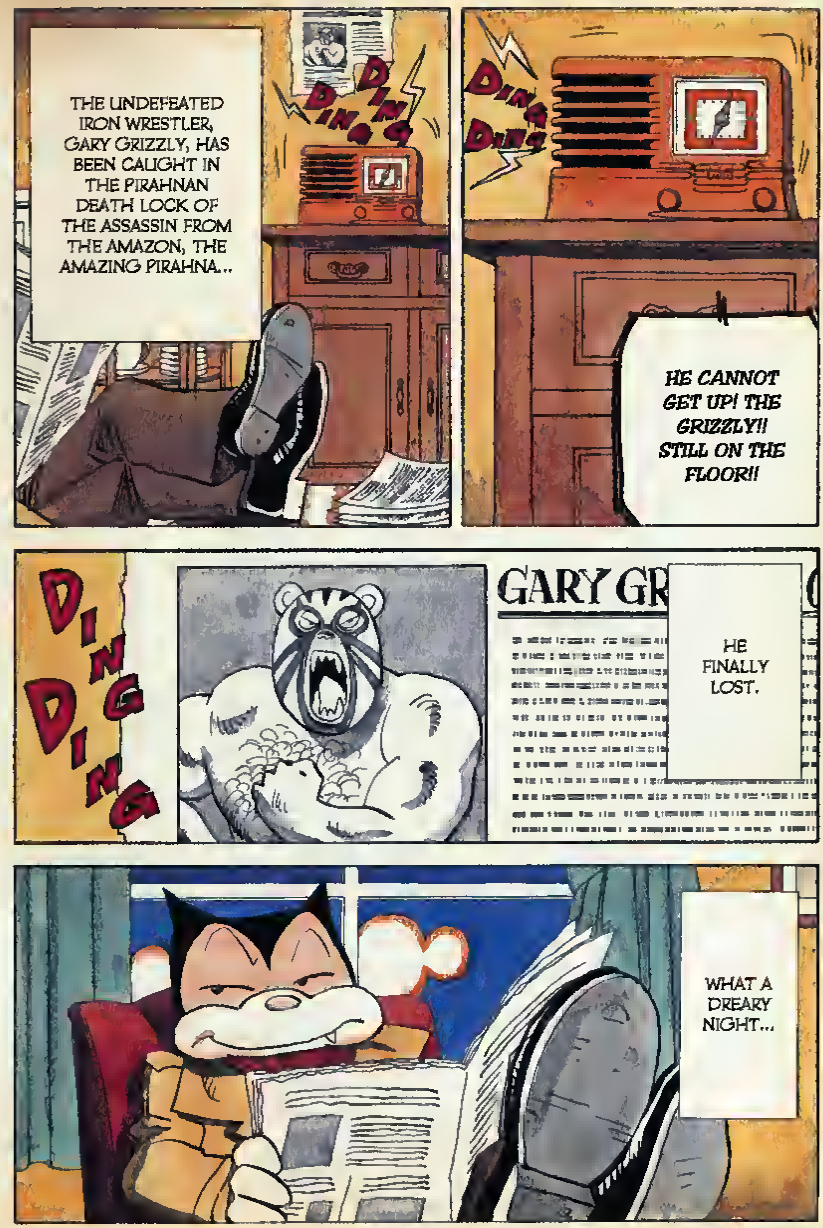
BILLY BAT

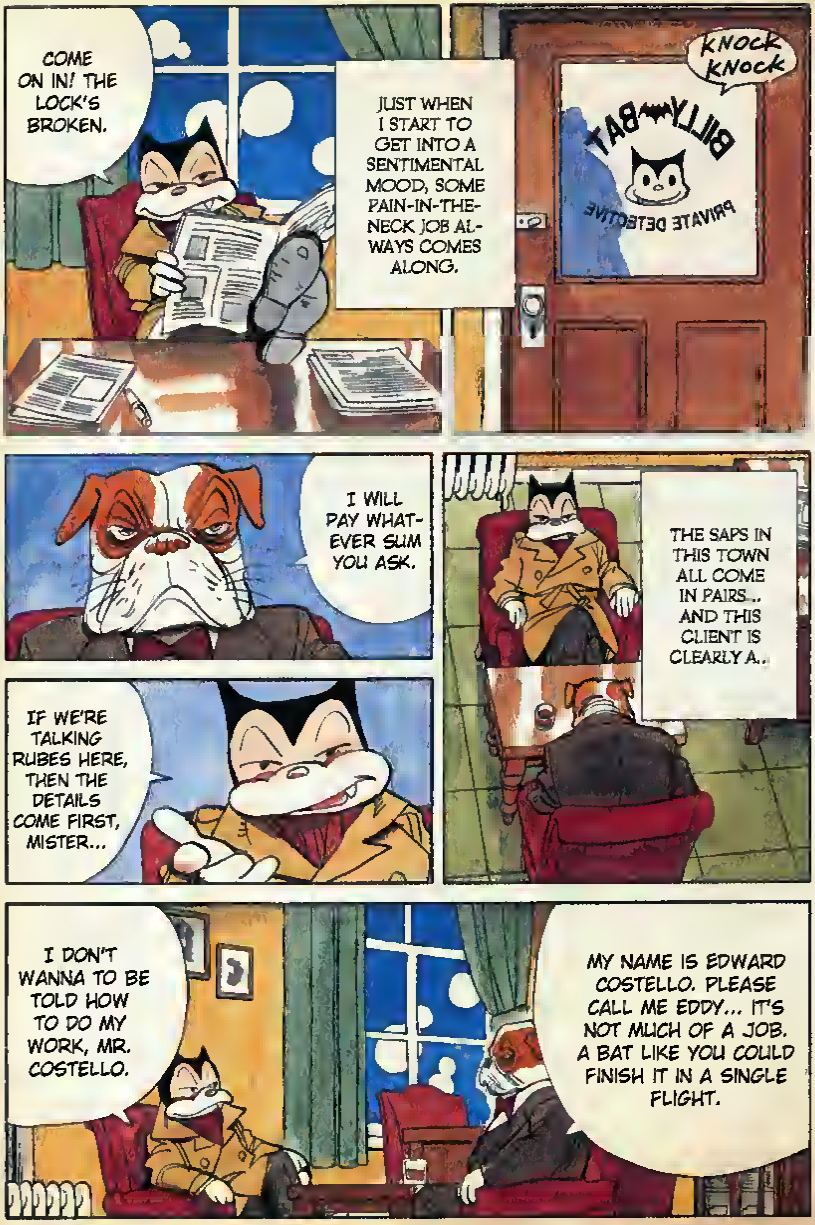
KEVIN YAMAGATA

DREARY NIGHT MURDERS

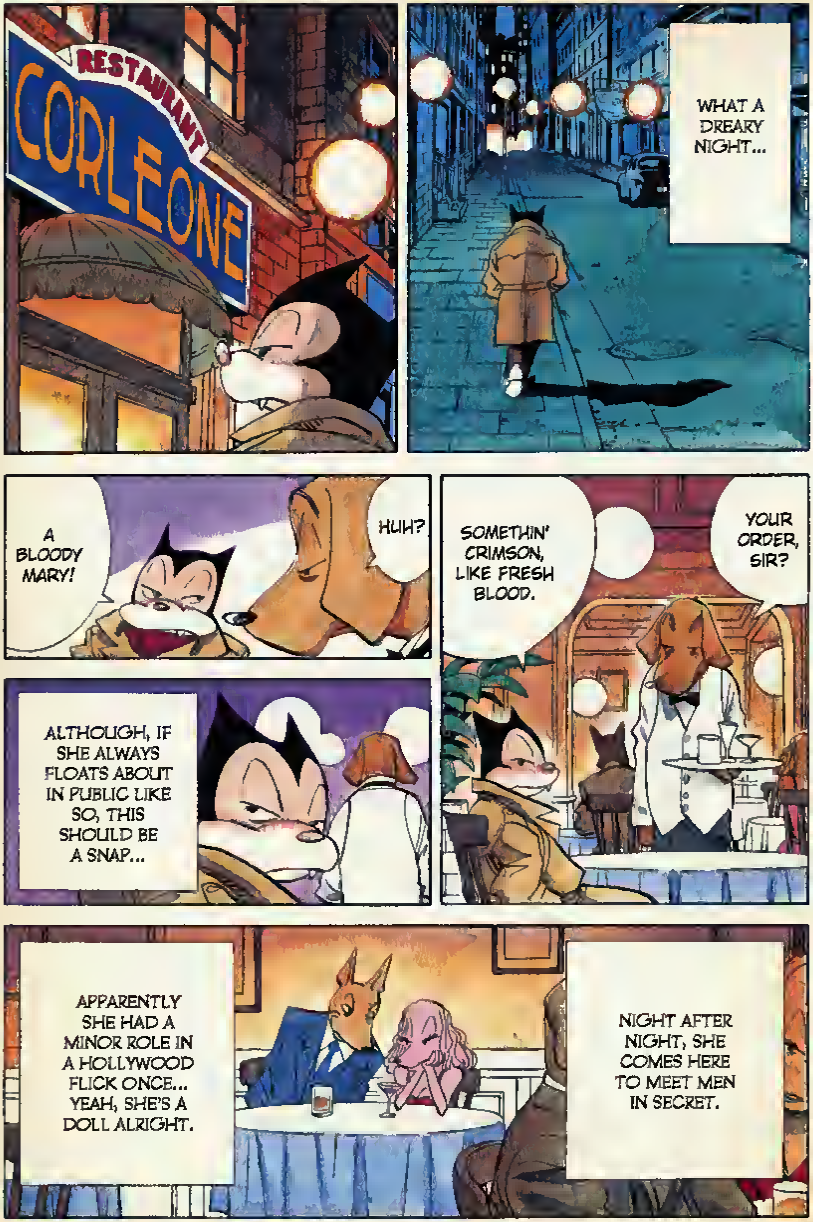
[やるせない夜の殺人]

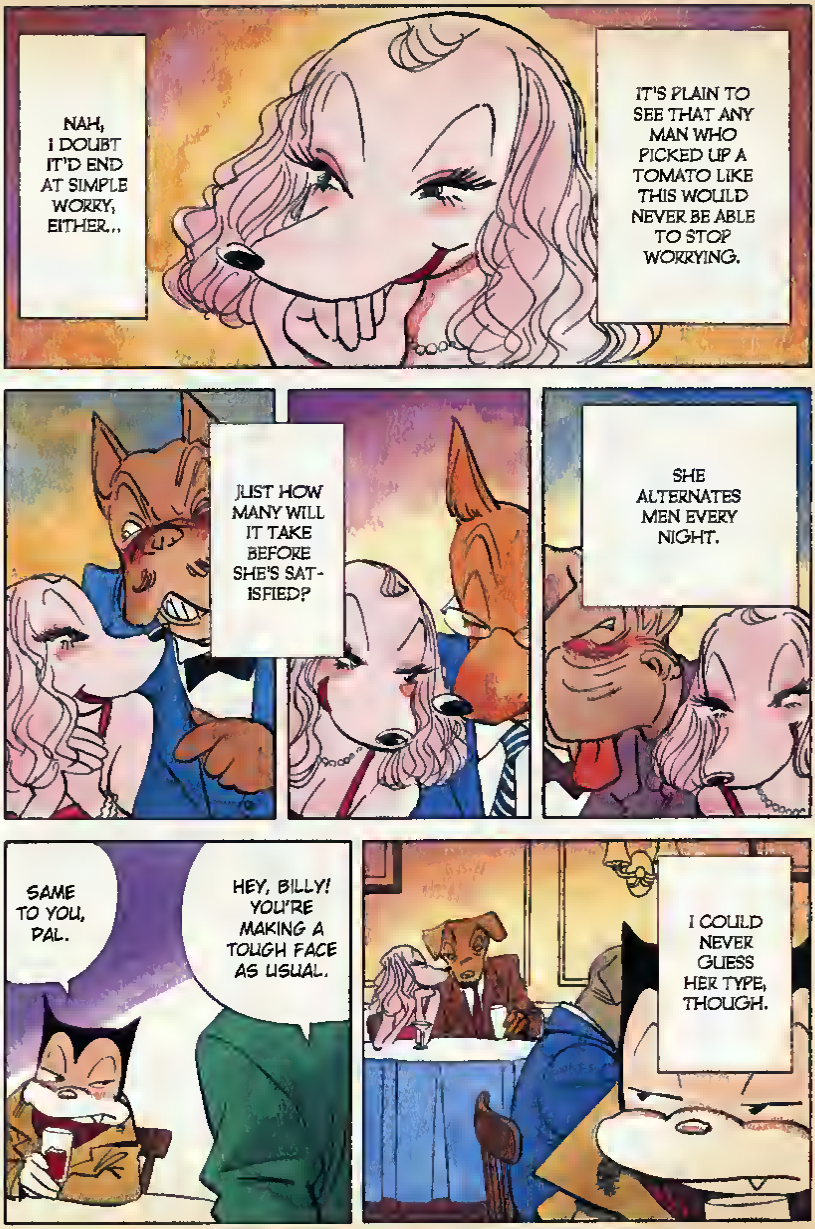
LUCKY SAPS, AND UNLUCKY SAPS...
THE SAPS THAT LIVE IN THIS TOWN CAN ALL BE SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS
SAPS WHO'VE WON, AND SAPS WHO'VE LOST...
SAPS WITH LOTSA DOUGH, AND SAPS WHO AIN'T GOT NONE.

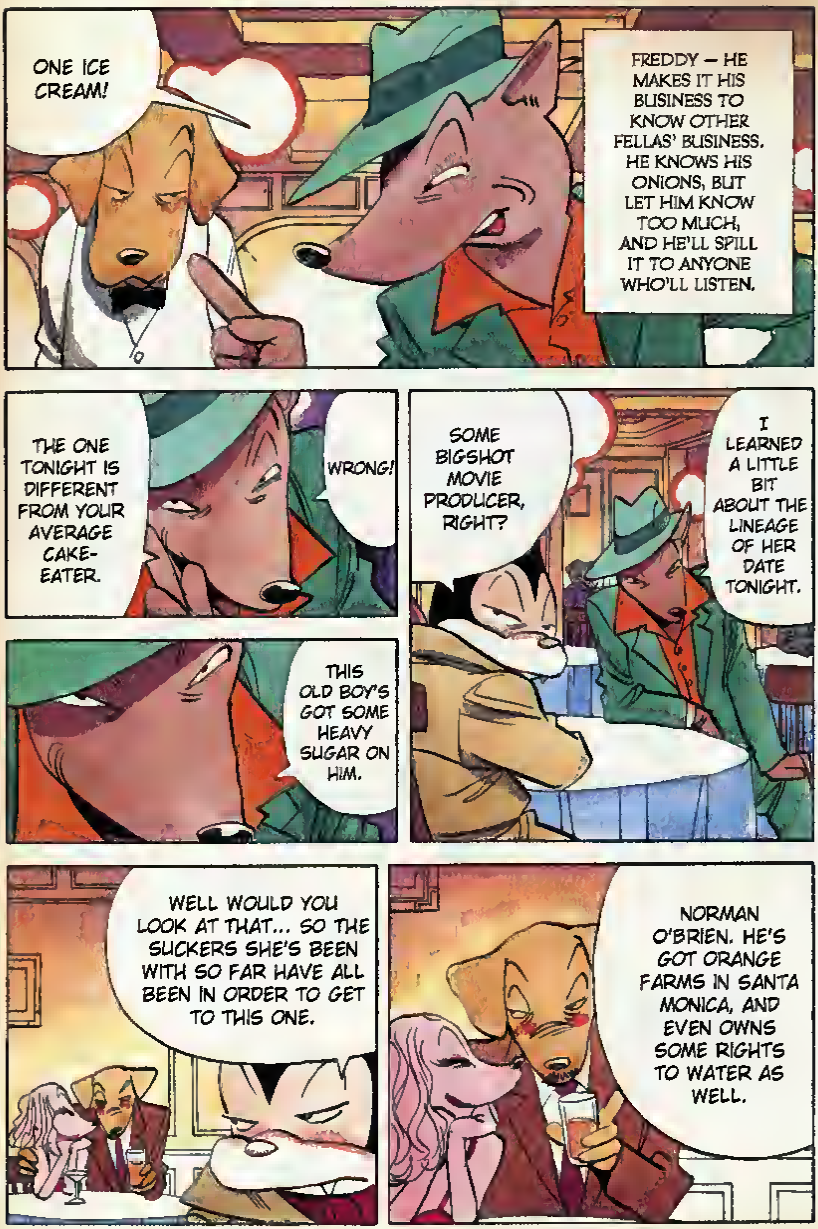

THE UNDEFEATED IRON WRESTLER, GARY GRIZZLY, HAS BEEN CAUGHT IN THE PIRAHNAN DEATH LOCK OF THE ASSASSIN FROM THE AMAZON, THE AMAZING PIRAHNA...
DING DING
DING DING
HE CANNOT GET UP! THE GRIZZLY!! STILL ON THE FLOOR!!
DING DING
GARY GR
HE FINALLY LOST.
WHAT A DREARY NIGHT...


COME ON IN! THE LOCK'S BROKEN.
JUST WHEN I START TO GET INTO A SENTIMENTAL MOOD, SOME PAIN-IN-THE-NECK JOB ALWAYS COMES ALONG.
KNOCK. KNOCK
BILLY BAT
PRIVATE DETECTIVE
I WILL PAY WHATEVER SUM YOU ASK.
THE SAPS IN THIS TOWN ALL COME IN PAIRS... AND THIS CLIENT IS CLEARLY A..
IF WE'RE TALKING RUBES HERE, THEN THE DETAILS COME FIRST, MISTER...
I DON'T WANNA TO BE TOLD HOW TO DO MY WORK, MR. COSTELLO.
MY NAME IS EDWARD COSTELLO. PLEASE CALL ME EDDY... IT'S NOT MUCH OF A JOB. A BAT LIKE YOU COULD FINISH IT IN A SINGLE FLIGHT.

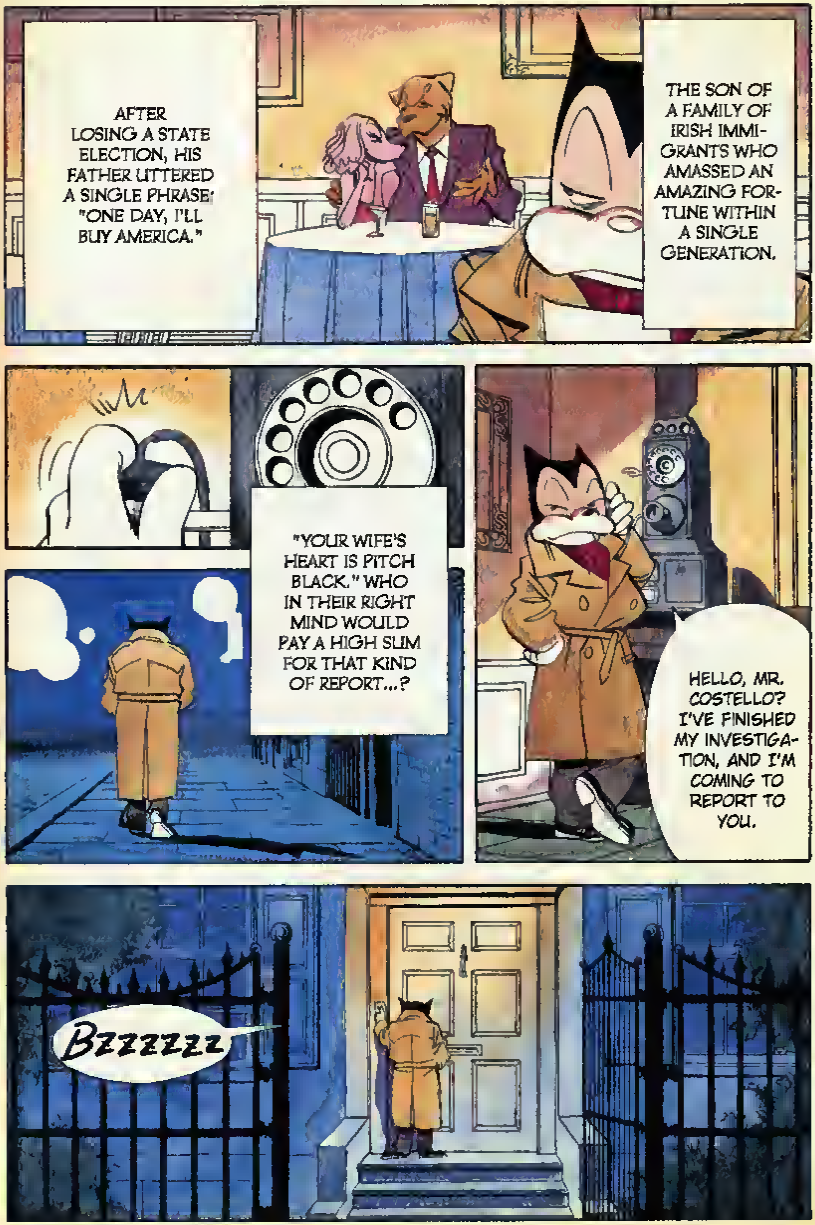
WHO IS?
SHE'S VERY SUSPI-CIOUS.
SEEMS LIKE A WASTE TO ME.
NOT TO MENTION, FELLAS DON'T JUST FLY AROUND WHENEVER THEY FEEL LIKE IT, YOU KNOW.
...WELL? ABOUT THE JOB?
I'M RARELY BUSY ENOUGH TO NEED TO FLY, ANYWAY. WALK-ING'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
YOU WANT ME TO SEE IF SHE'S DOUBLE-CROSSIN' YOU, HUH. .
WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD DE-TECTIVE, IT SOUNDS RITZY, BUT THE TRUTH IS, MOST OF THE JOBS ARE. .
MY WIFE.
THE IRON WRESTLER GARY GRIZZLY LOSES, AND AS USUAL, I'M BUSY CHECK-ING ON SOME LOOSE BIRD...
.....
YES. I'VE BARELY BEEN MARRIED TO THIS YOUNG GIRL AND SHE'S ALREADY CAUSED ME AN UNBEARABLE AMOUNT OF WORRY.

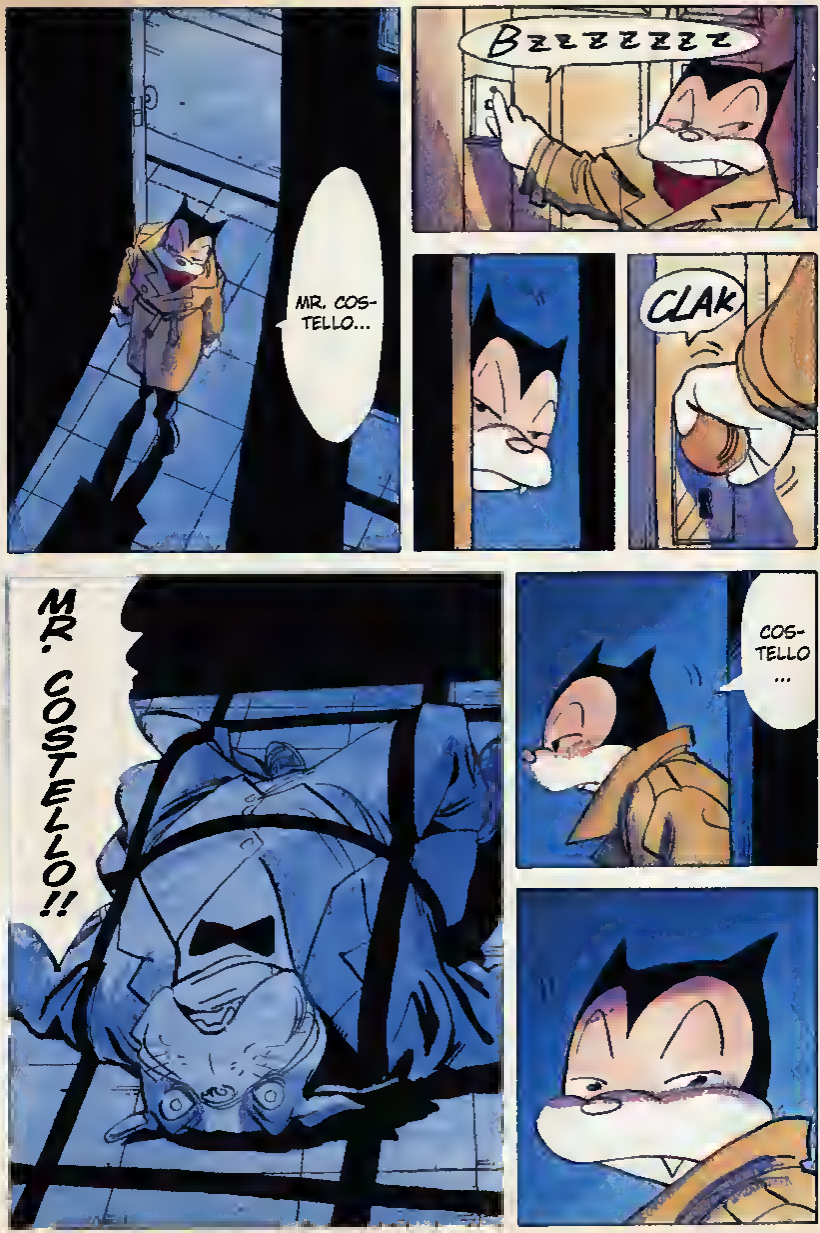

RESTAURANT
CORLEONE
WHAT A DREARY NIGHT...
A BLOODY MARY!
HUH?
SOMETHIN' CRIMSON, LIKE FRESH BLOOD.
YOUR ORDER, SIR?
ALTHOUGH, IF SHE ALWAYS FLOATS ABOUT IN PUBLIC LIKE SO, THIS SHOULD BE A SNAP...
APPARENTLY SHE HAD A MINOR ROLE IN A HOLLYWOOD FLICK ONCE... YEAH, SHE'S A DOLL ALRIGHT.
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, SHE COMES HERE TO MEET MEN IN SECRET.


NAH, I DOUBT IT'D END AT SIMPLE WORRY, EITHER...
IT'S PLAIN TO SEE THAT ANY MAN WHO PICKED UP A TOMATO LIKE THIS WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP WORRYING.
JUST HOW MANY WILL IT TAKE BEFORE SHE'S SATISFIED?
SHE ALTERNATES MEN EVERY NIGHT.
SAME TO YOU, PAL.
HEY, BILLY! YOU'RE MAKING A TOUGH FACE AS USUAL.
I COULD NEVER GUESS HER TYPE, THOUGH.


ONE ICE CREAM!
FREDDY — HE MAKES IT HIS BUSINESS TO KNOW OTHER FELLAS' BUSINESS. HE KNOWS HIS ONIONS, BUT LET HIM KNOW TOO MUCH, AND HE'LL SPILL IT TO ANYONE WHO'LL LISTEN.
THE ONE TONIGHT IS DIFFERENT FROM YOUR AVERAGE CAKE-EATER.
WRONG!
SOME BIGSHOT MOVIE PRODUCER, RIGHT?
I LEARNED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE LINEAGE OF HER DATE TONIGHT.
THIS OLD BOY'S GOT SOME HEAVY SUGAR ON HIM.
WELL WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT... SO THE SUCKERS SHE'S BEEN WITH SO FAR HAVE ALL BEEN IN ORDER TO GET TO THIS ONE.
NORMAN O'BRIEN. HE'S GOT ORANGE FARMS IN SANTA MONICA, AND EVEN OWNS SOME RIGHTS TO WATER AS WELL.

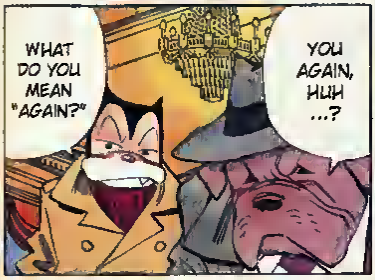
YOU'D ARRIVE AT ONE OTHER FELLA...
IF YOU TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL OF THE RENDEZVOUS SHE'S BEEN ON THIS FAR...
Lick Lick
WHY NOT?
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.
IF MY HUNCH IS CORRECT, SHE'LL BE MEETING THIS MICK TOMORROW NIGHT.
AND THE NEXT NIGHT, SHE DID.

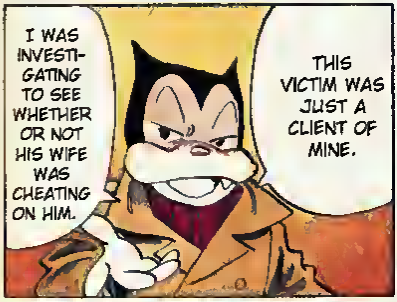

AFTER LOSING A STATE ELECTION, HIS FATHER UTTERED A SINGLE PHRASE: "ONE DAY, I'LL BUY AMERICA."
THE SON OF A FAMILY OF IRISH IMMIGRANTS WHO AMASSED AN AMAZING FORTUNE WITHIN A SINGLE GENERATION.
"YOUR WIFE'S HEART IS PITCH BLACK." WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD PAY A HIGH SUM FOR THAT KIND OF REPORT...?
HELLO, MR. COSTELLO? I'VE FINISHED MY INVESTIGATION, AND I'M COMING TO REPORT TO YOU.
Bzzzzzz

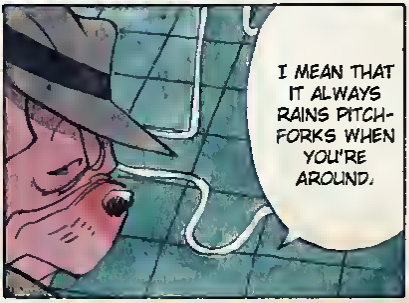

MR. COS-
TELLO...
BZZZZZZZ
CLAK
COS-
TELLO
...
MR. COSTELLO!!

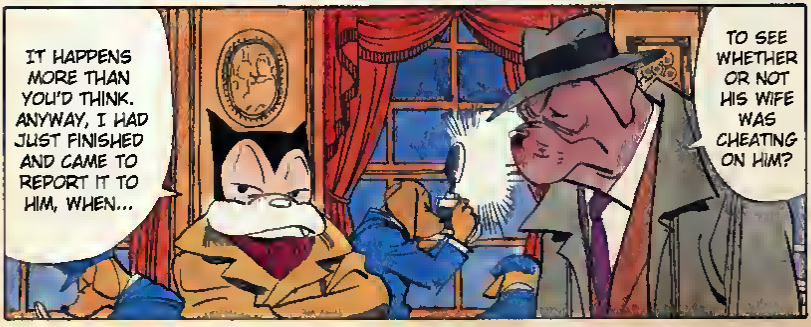
WELL, WELL ...

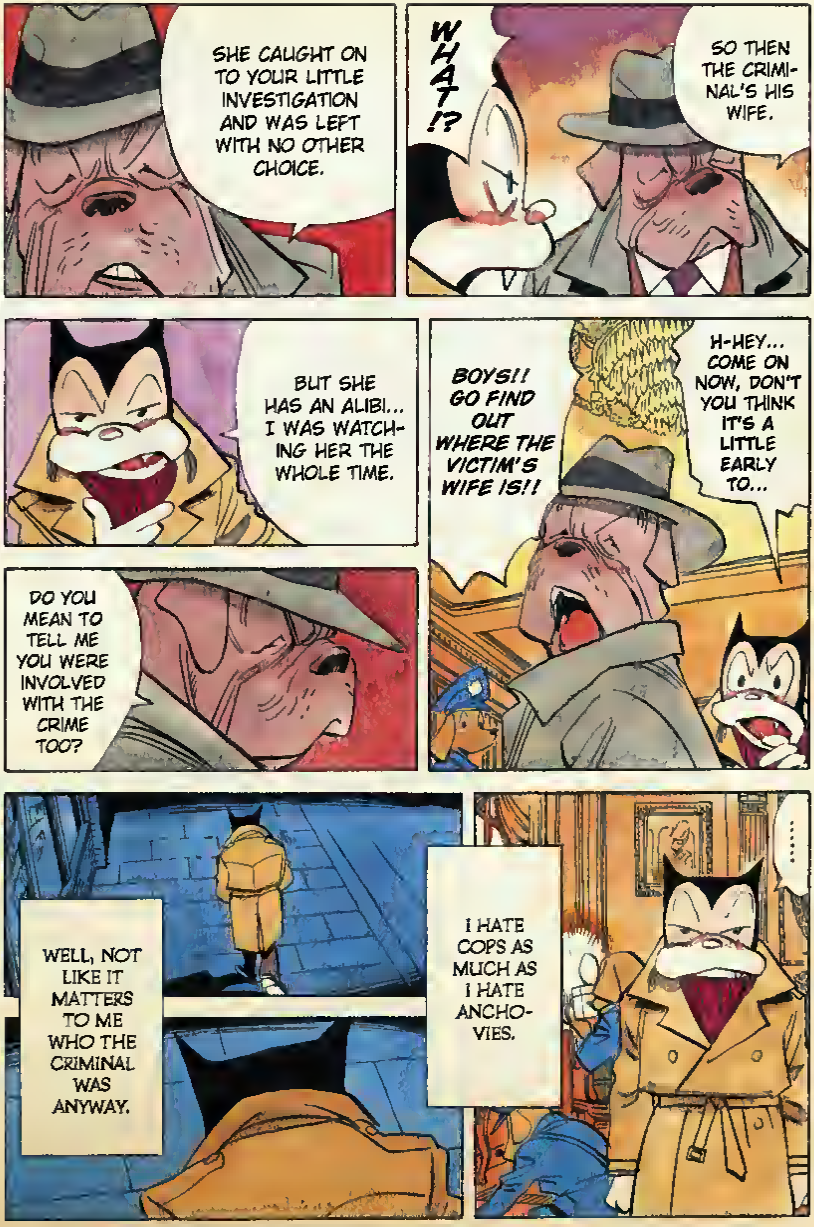
WHOOOOOP WHOOOOOP!

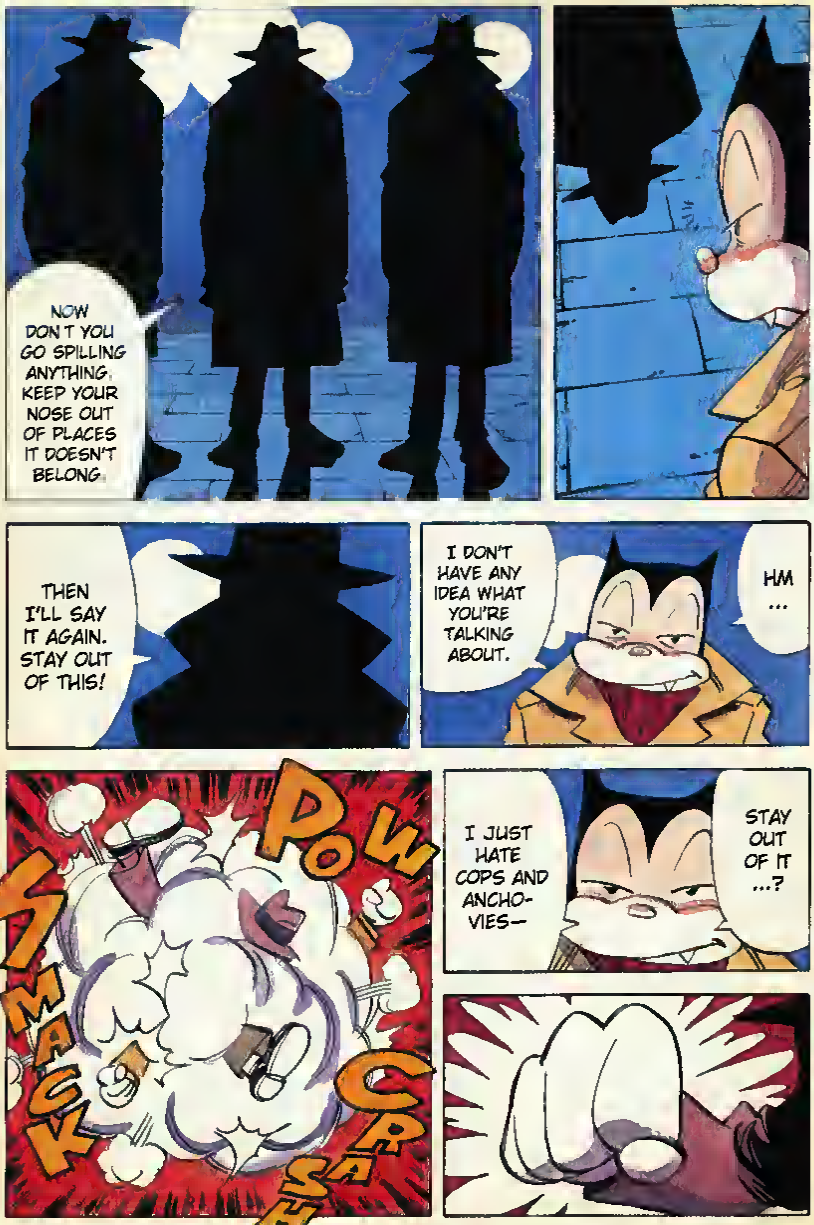

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "AGAIN?"
YOU AGAIN, HUH ...?


I WAS INVESTI-GATING TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT HIS WIFE WAS CHEATING ON HIM.
THIS VICTIM WAS JUST A CLIENT OF MINE.


I MEAN THAT IT ALWAYS RAINS PITCH-FORKS WHEN YOU'RE AROUND.

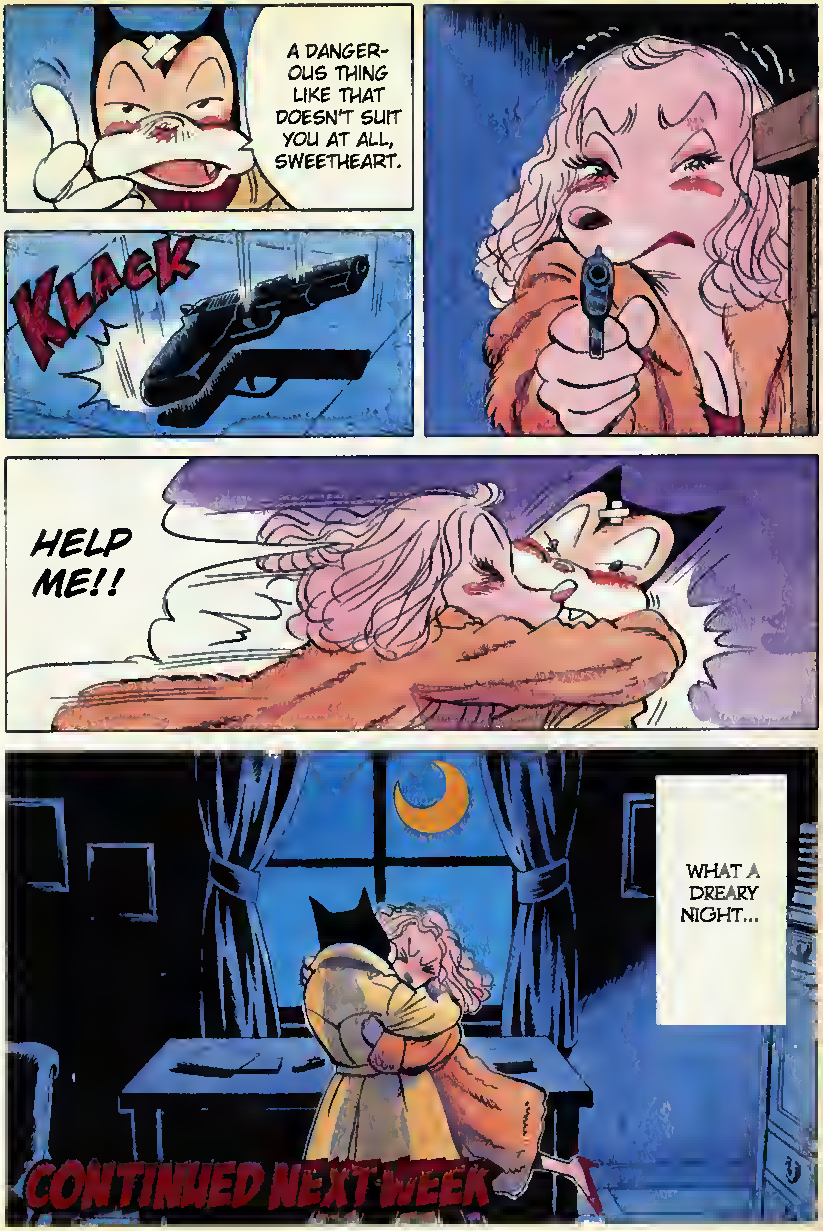

IT HAPPENS MORE THAN YOU'D THINK. ANYWAY, I HAD JUST FINISHED AND CAME TO REPORT IT TO HIM, WHEN...
TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT HIS WIFE WAS CHEATING ON HIM?


SHE CAUGHT ON TO YOUR LITTLE INVESTIGATION AND WAS LEFT WITH NO OTHER CHOICE.
WHAT!?
SO THEN THE CRIMINAL'S HIS WIFE.
BUT SHE HAS AN ALIBI... I WAS WATCHING HER THE WHOLE TIME.
BOYS!! GO FIND OUT WHERE THE VICTIM'S WIFE IS!!
H-HEY... COME ON NOW, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE EARLY TO...
DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH THE CRIME TOO?
WELL, NOT LIKE IT MATTERS TO ME WHO THE CRIMINAL WAS ANYWAY.
I HATE COPS AS MUCH AS I HATE ANCHOVIES.
.....


NOW DON'T YOU GO SPILLING ANYTHING. KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF PLACES IT DOESN'T BELONG.
THEN I'LL SAY IT AGAIN. STAY OUT OF THIS!
I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HM ...
SMACK
POW
CRASH
I JUST HATE COPS AND ANCHO-VIES—
STAY OUT OF IT ...?

THEN WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU FOR A RIDE.
IF WE CATCH YOU CHEWING GUM AROUND HERE AGAIN,
BANG
NIGHT ...
WHAT A DREARY ...
TCH ...
BILLY BAT
PRIVATE DETECTIVE

DON'T TURN ON THE LIGHTS!!
THEY'RE AFTER ME. DON'T TURN ON THE LIGHTS...!!
BESIDES, YOU THINK THAT'S THE WAY TO ASK SOMEONE FOR SOME-THING!?
YOU KNOW IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE LIGHTS ARE ON OR NOT FOR ME?
I'M A BAT.

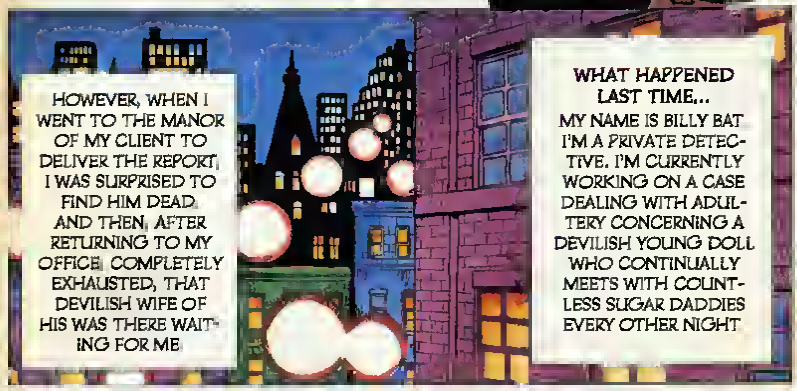

A DANGER-OUS THING LIKE THAT DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT ALL, SWEETHEART.
KLACK
HELP ME!!
WHAT A DREARY NIGHT...
CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

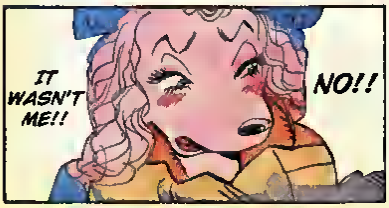
KEVIN YAMAGATA

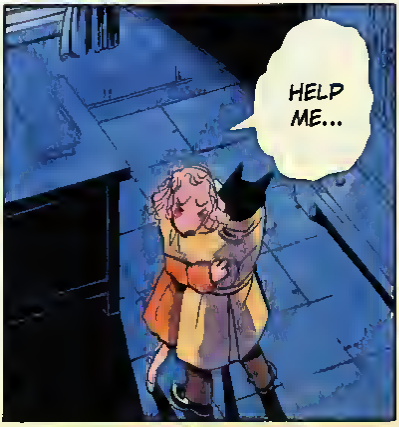
BILLY BAT

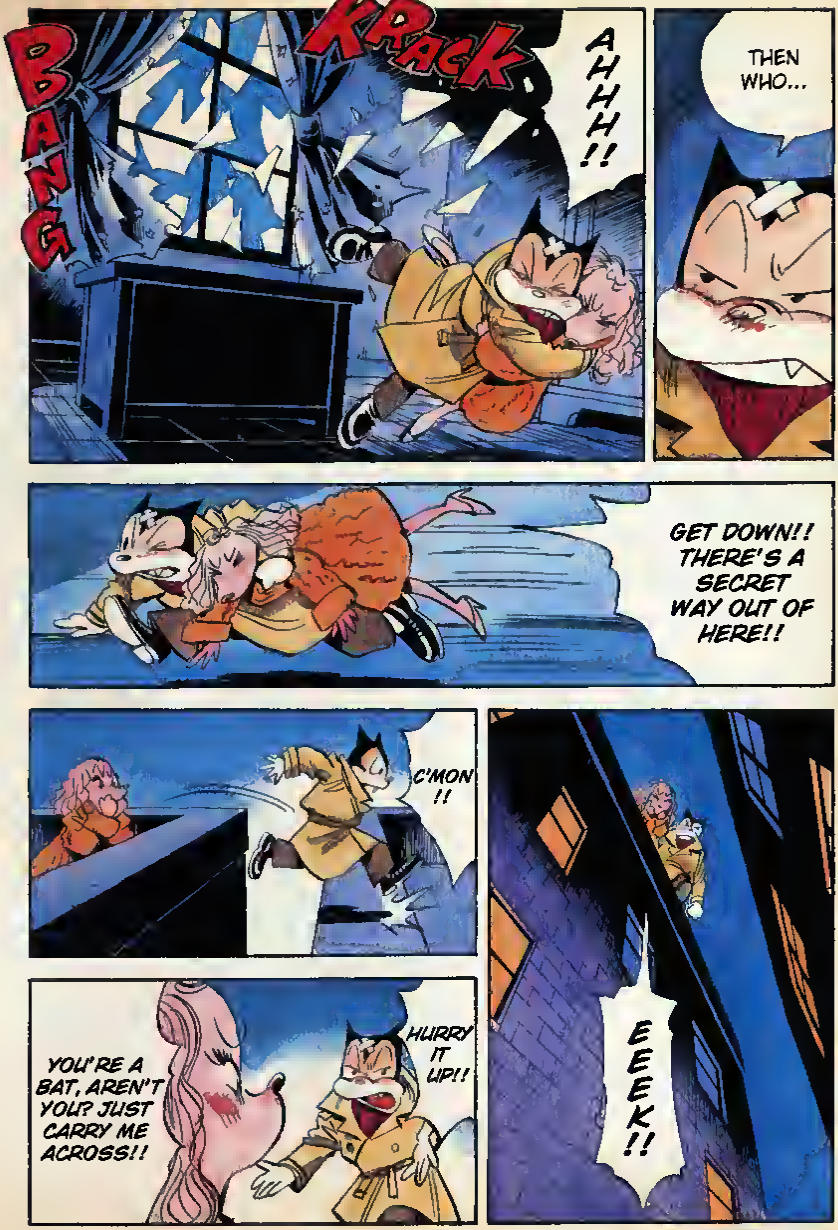
A SINCERE NIGHT

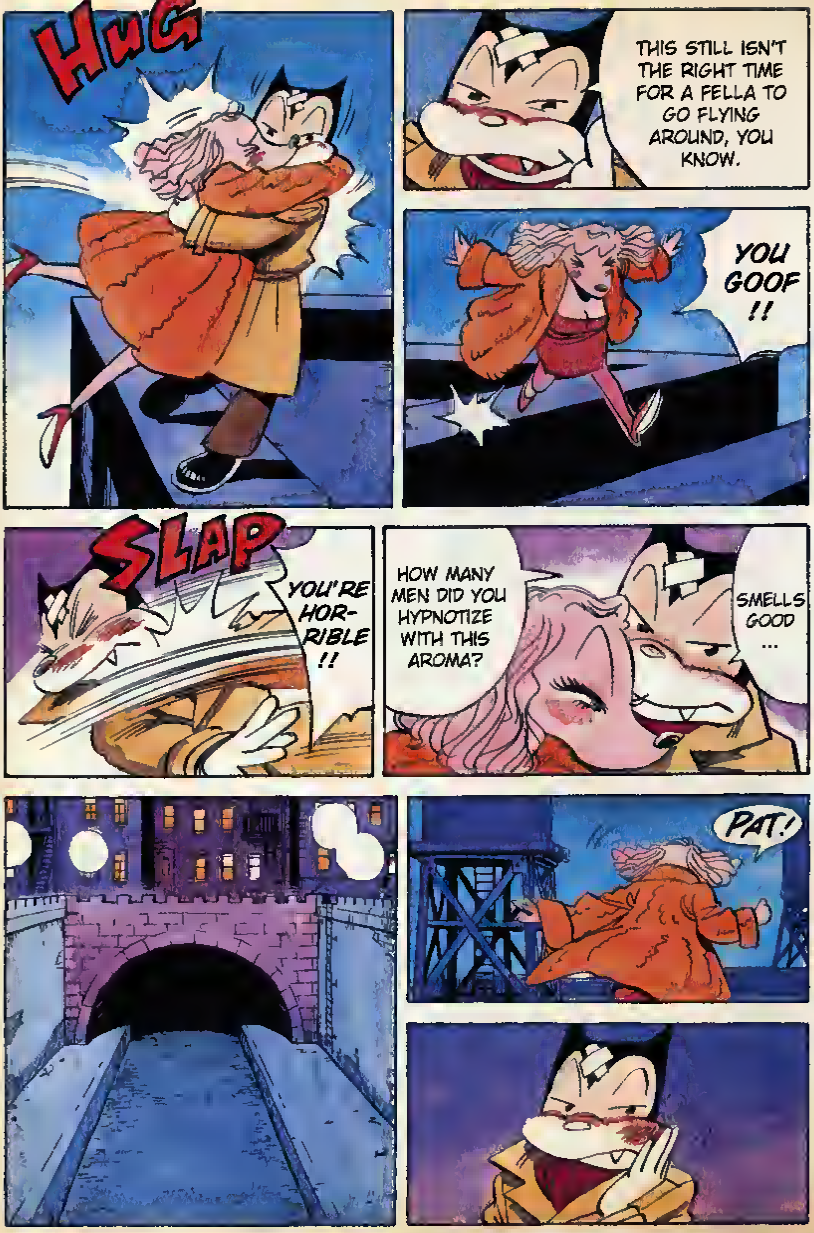
［真実の夜］

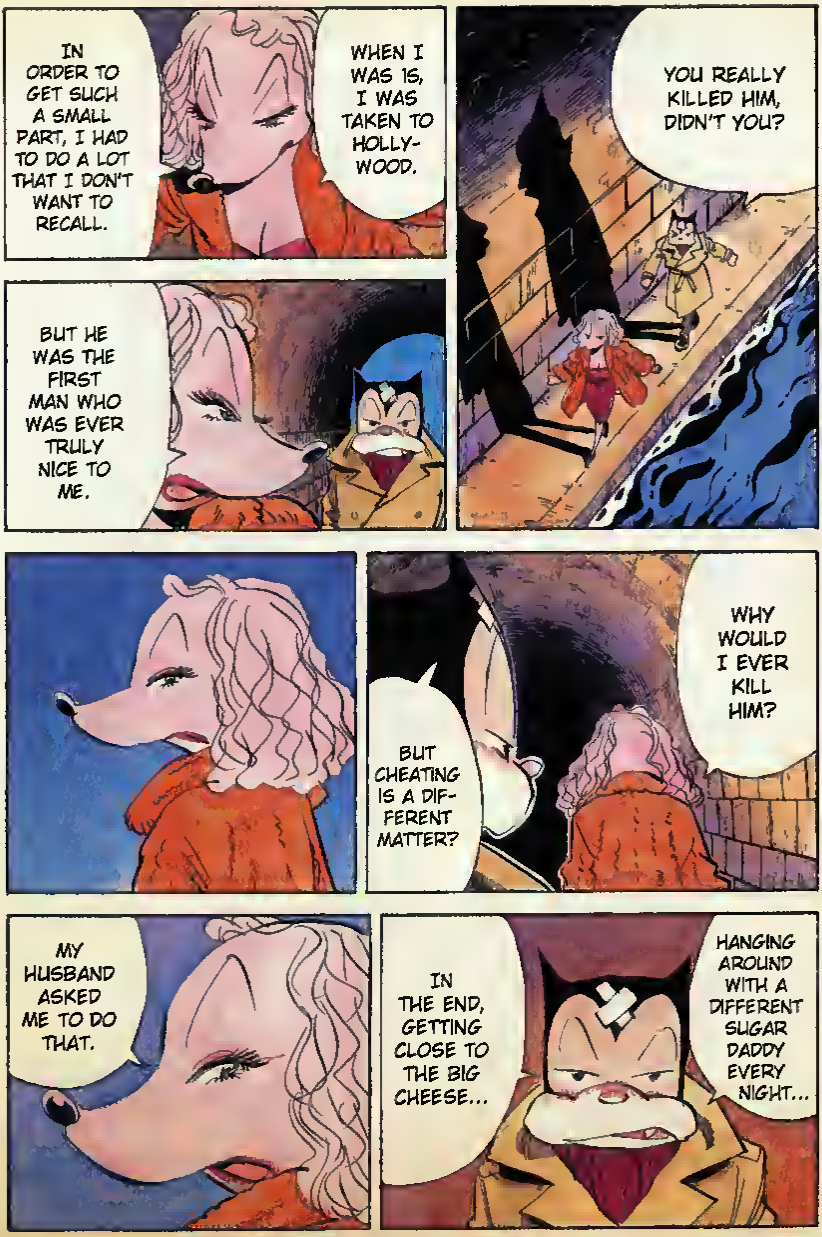

HOWEVER, WHEN I WENT TO THE MANOR OF MY CLIENT TO DELIVER THE REPORT, I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND HIM DEAD. AND THEN, AFTER RETURNING TO MY OFFICE, COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, THAT DEVILISH WIFE OF HIS WAS THERE WAITING FOR ME.
WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME...
MY NAME IS BILLY BAT. I'M A PRIVATE DETECTIVE. I'M CURRENTLY WORKING ON A CASE DEALING WITH ADULTERY CONCERNING A DEVILISH YOUNG DOLL WHO CONTINUALLY MEETS WITH COUNTLESS SUGAR DADDIES EVERY OTHER NIGHT.

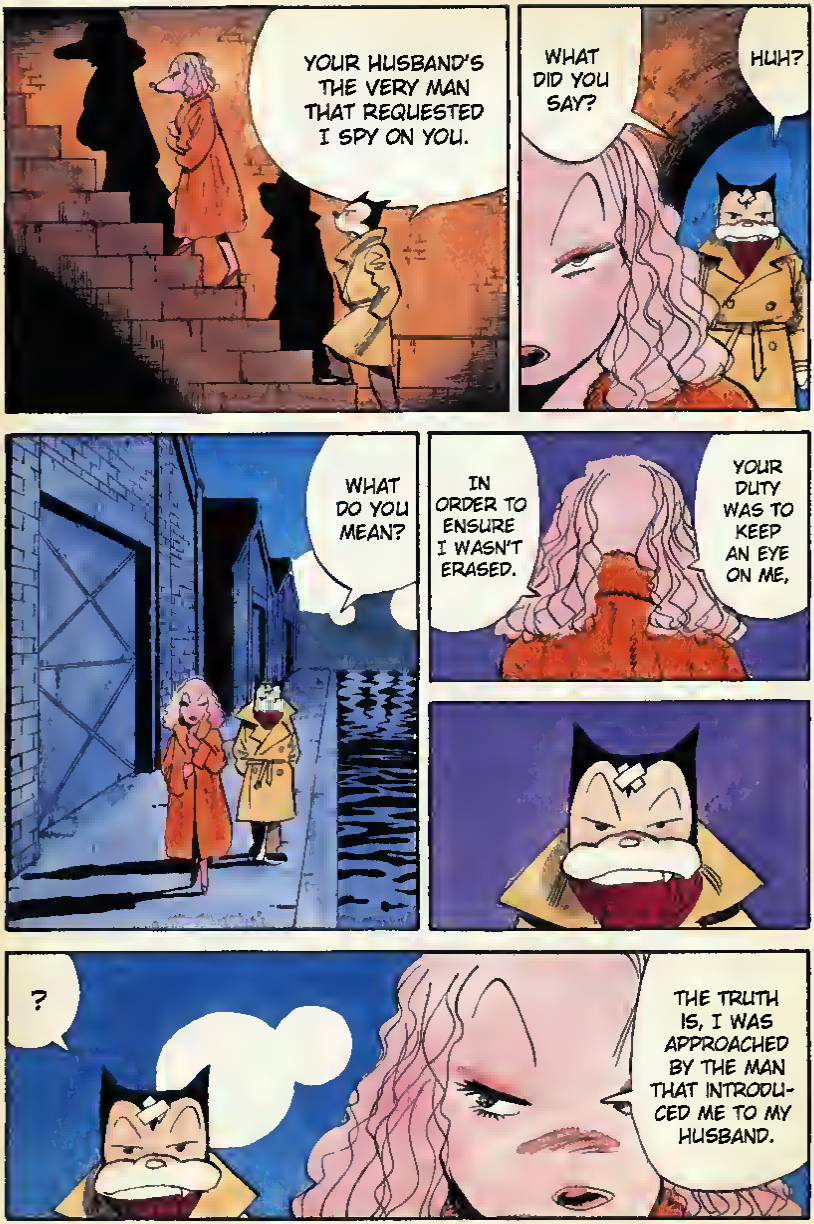


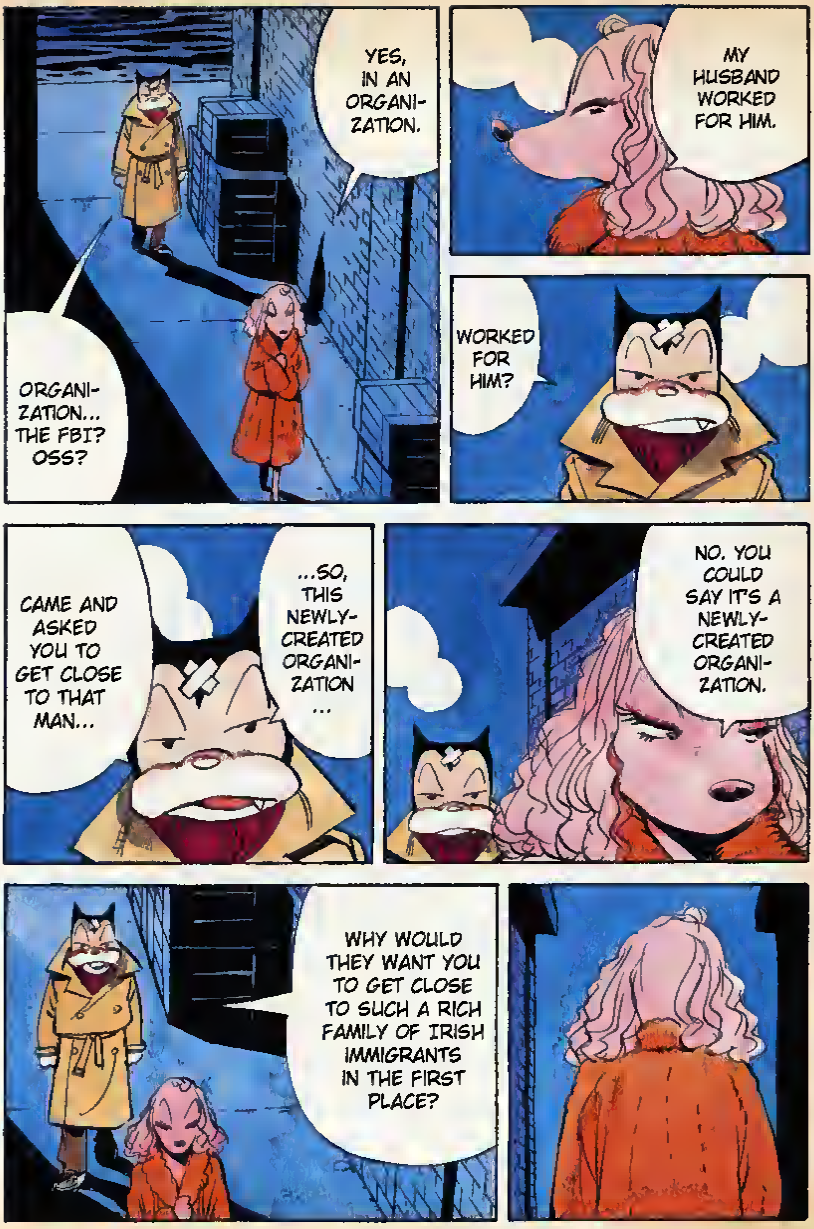



BANG
KRACK
AHHH!!
THEN WHO...
GET DOWN!! THERE'S A SECRET WAY OUT OF HERE!!
C'MON !!
EEEK!!
HURRY IT UP!!
YOU'RE A BAT, AREN'T YOU? JUST CARRY ME ACROSS!!

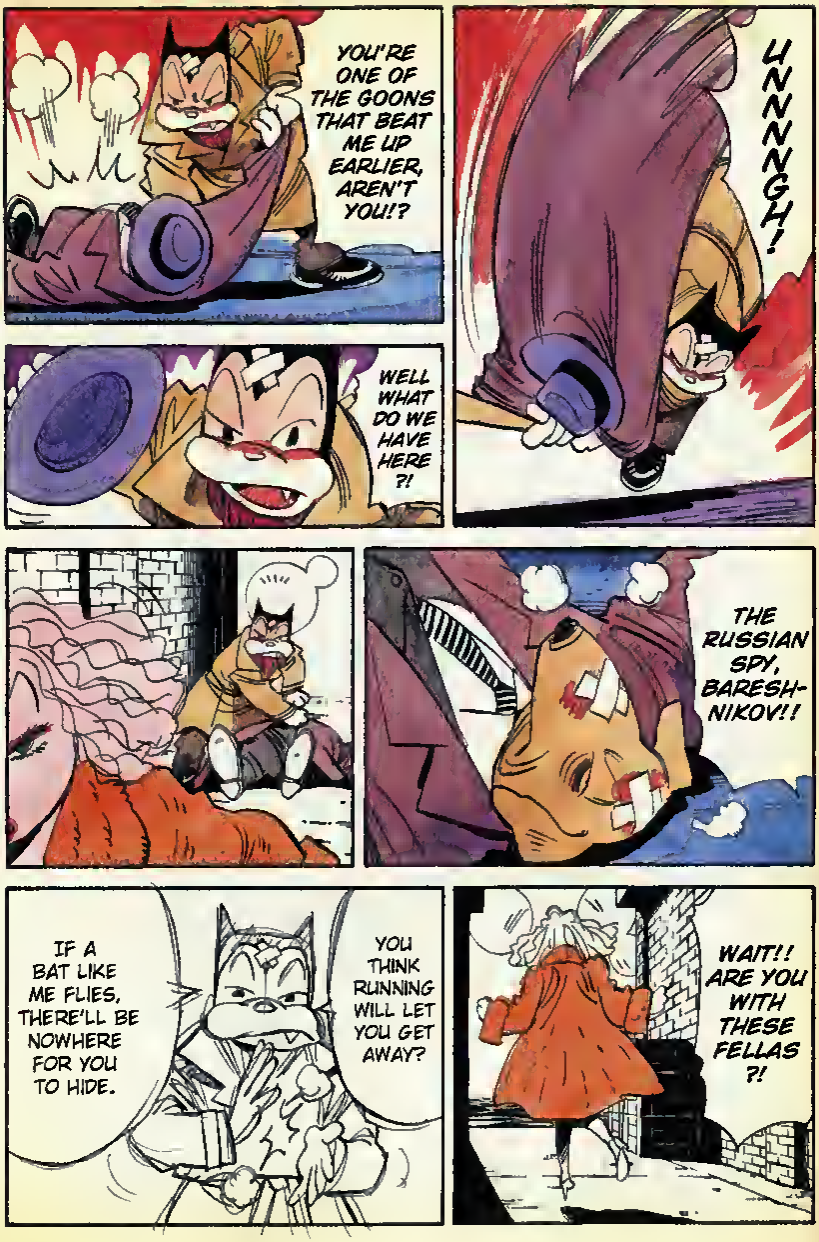

HUG
THIS STILL ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME FOR A FELLA TO GO FLYING AROUND, YOU KNOW.
YOU GOOF !!
SLAP
YOU'RE HOR-RIBLE !!
HOW MANY MEN DID YOU HYPNOTIZE WITH THIS AROMA?
SMELLS GOOD ...
PAT!

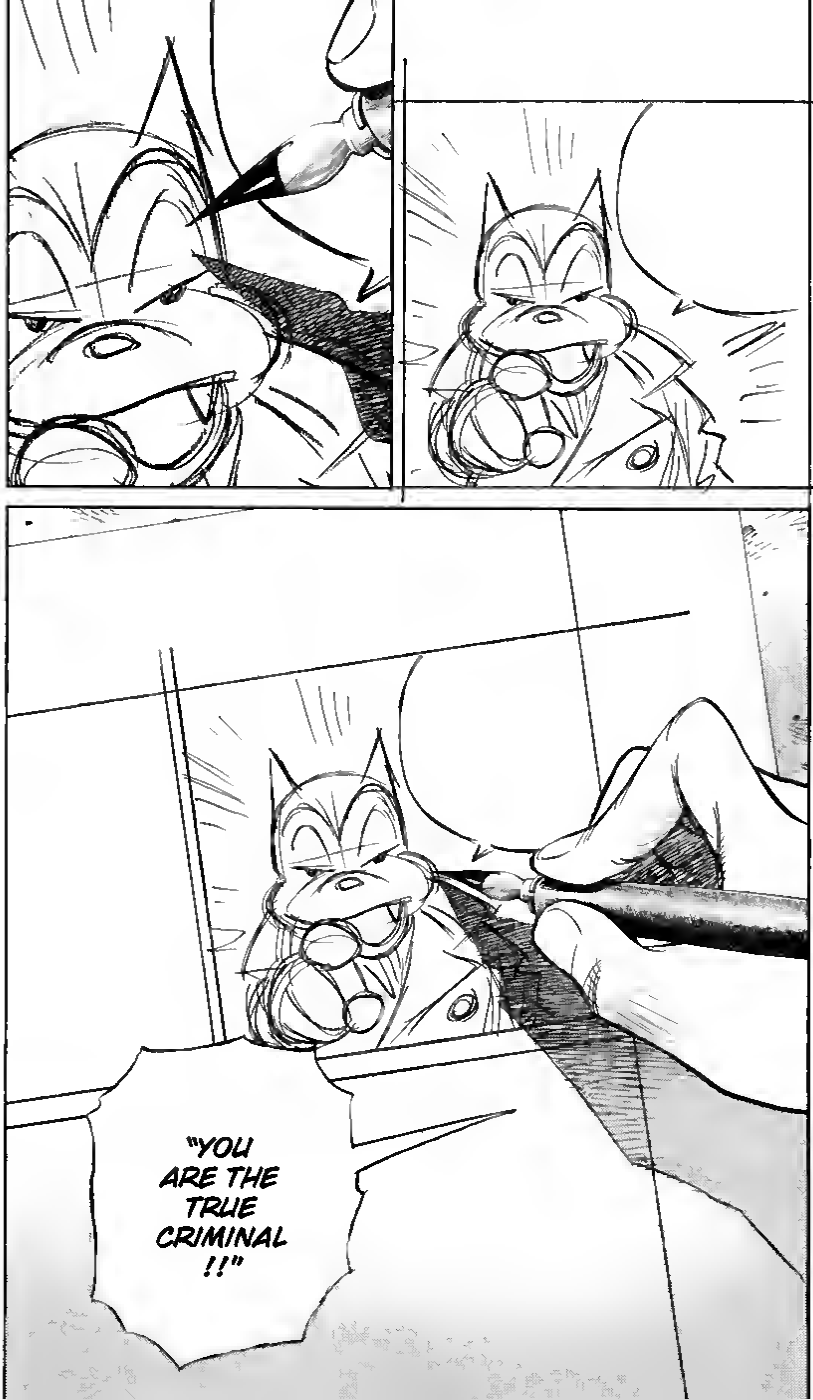

IN ORDER TO GET SUCH A SMALL PART, I HAD TO DO A LOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO RECALL.
WHEN I WAS 15, I WAS TAKEN TO HOLLY-WOOD.
BUT HE WAS THE FIRST MAN WHO WAS EVER TRULY NICE TO ME.
YOU REALLY KILLED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY WOULD I EVER KILL HIM?
BUT CHEATING IS A DIF-FERENT MATTER?
MY HUSBAND ASKED ME TO DO THAT.
IN THE END, GETTING CLOSE TO THE BIG CHEESE...
HANGING AROUND WITH A DIFFERENT SUGAR DADDY EVERY NIGHT...


YOUR HUSBAND'S THE VERY MAN THAT REQUESTED I SPY ON YOU.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IN ORDER TO ENSURE I WASN'T ERASED.
YOUR DUTY WAS TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME,
?
THE TRUTH IS, I WAS APPROACHED BY THE MAN THAT INTRODUCED ME TO MY HUSBAND.


YES, IN AN ORGANI-ZATION.
ORGANI-ZATION... THE FBI? OSS?
MY HUSBAND WORKED FOR HIM.
WORKED FOR HIM?
CAME AND ASKED YOU TO GET CLOSE TO THAT MAN...
...SO, THIS NEWLY-CREATED ORGANI-ZATION ...
NO. YOU COULD SAY IT'S A NEWLY-CREATED ORGANI-ZATION.
WHY WOULD THEY WANT YOU TO GET CLOSE TO SUCH A RICH FAMILY OF IRISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

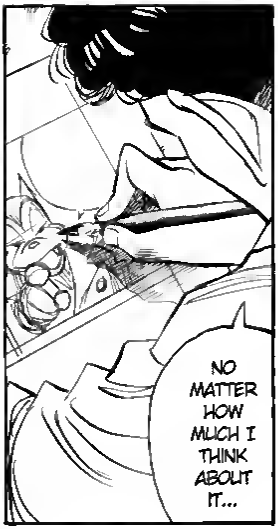
THAT FAMILY WILL SOMEDAY ...
I DON'T KNOW.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! YOU KILLED YOUR HUSBAND!!
DESTROY AMERICA.
WHA ...?


YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOONS THAT BEAT ME UP EARLIER, AREN'T YOU!?
UNNNNGH!
WELL WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE ?!
THE RUSSIAN SPY, BARESH-NIKOV!!
IF A BAT LIKE ME FLIES, THERE'LL BE NOWHERE FOR YOU TO HIDE.
YOU THINK RUNNING WILL LET YOU GET AWAY?
WAIT!! ARE YOU WITH THESE FELLAS ?!

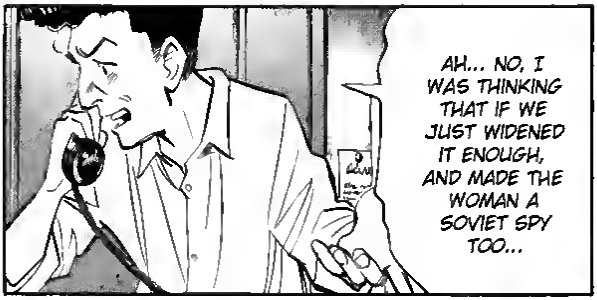

"YOU ARE THE TRUE CRIMINAL !!"

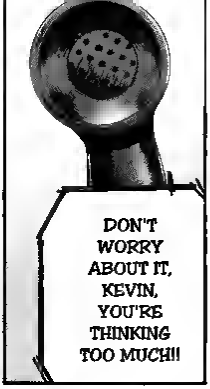
HMMMM...

THIS CONCLUSION JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...

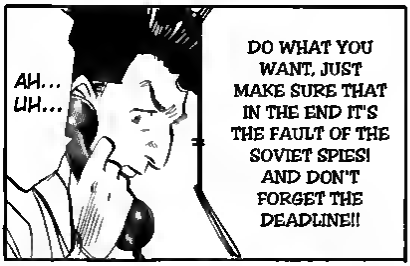

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK ABOUT IT...

UM... YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM MR. NEWMAN WITH MARBLE COMICS.
AHH, NO, NO! THIS ENDING WON'T WORK AT ALL!!
HELLO? THIS IS KEVIN.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL YOU RIGHT NOW, TOO.
GOT IT.
OK... MAKE THE NIGHT LOOK MORE REALISTIC HERE.
THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT MAKING IT ALL THE WORK OF SOVIET SPIES THAT...
ABOUT THAT CON-CLUSION...


AH... NO, I WAS THINKING THAT IF WE JUST WIDENED IT ENOUGH, AND MADE THE WOMAN A SOVIET SPY TOO...


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, KEVIN, YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH!!

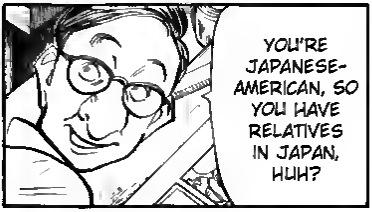
EH?
UM... THIS CAR IS DRIVING ON THE LEFT SIDE. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?


AH... UH...
DO WHAT YOU WANT, JUST MAKE SURE THAT IN THE END IT'S THE FAULT OF THE SOVIET SPIES! AND DON'T FORGET THE DEADLINE!!

.....
BOOP
BOOP

WHAT DID YOU GO THERE FOR, THEN?
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO GO VISIT ...
YEAH, I HEARD THEY'RE IN SOME PLACE CALLED NIIGATA ...

I WAS IN JAPAN FOR SO LONG...
I DID IT AGAIN ...


YOU'RE JAPANESE-AMERICAN, SO YOU HAVE RELATIVES IN JAPAN, HUH?

ARE YOU MR. KEVIN YAMA-GATA?
HELLO, WHO...
DING-A-LING
TO TRANS-LATE FOR THE ALLIES ...
DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET IT.
WE HAVE VISI-TORS.
PO... LI...?
WE'RE WITH THE POLICE.
DON'T JUST BARGE INTO SOMEONE'S WORK-SPACE!!
!!
EXCUSE US!
I'M CHIEF INSPECTOR REYNOLDS, AND THIS IS OFFICER HOFFMAN.
WA... WA... WAIT...

BEST POSITION ...?
THIS REALLY IS THE BEST POSITION, AFTER ALL.
WHAT, SAYS WHO...
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO USE THIS ROOM FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
EH ...?
TAKE A LOOK AT THAT ROOM OVER THERE.
EVEN IF THE LANDLORD GIVES YOU PERMISSION, I...!!
DON'T WORRY, WE'VE RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM YOUR LANDLORD.
IT SEEMS THAT HE'S A RUSSIAN SPY.
THE PERSON LIVING IN THAT ROOM IS EXTREMELY SUSPICIOUS.

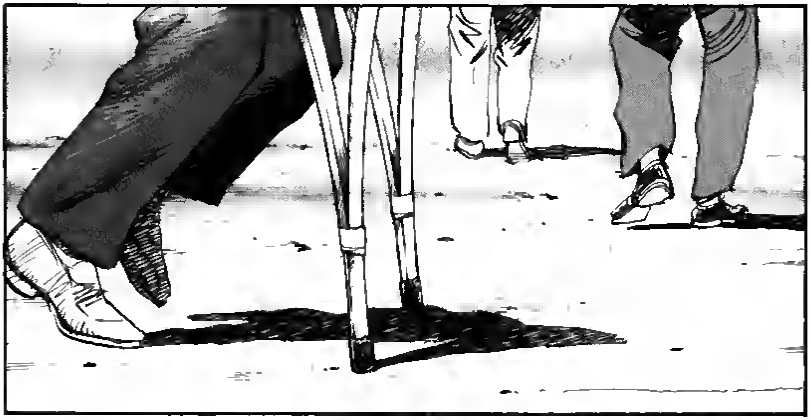
HOW CAN YOU FIGURE OUT WHETHER HE'S A SPY OR NOT ANYWAY?
WE RECEIVED SOME SECRET INFORMATION.
ANOTHER RUSSIAN SPY, HUH...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ANOTHER?
NO, NO, NOTHING...
HE THINKS ALL THE NEIGHBORS ARE RUSSIAN SPIES!
IT WAS FROM THE LANDLORD, RIGHT?
SECRET INFORMATION...?
WITH YOU TWO LAYING IN WAIT LIKE THAT, I'LL BE TOO DISTRACTED TO GET ANY WORK DONE.
I WAS EVEN AFRAID HE WAS GOING TO REPORT ME A WHILE BACK...
ALL HE EVER THINKS ABOUT IS MCCARTHY'S RED SCARE.

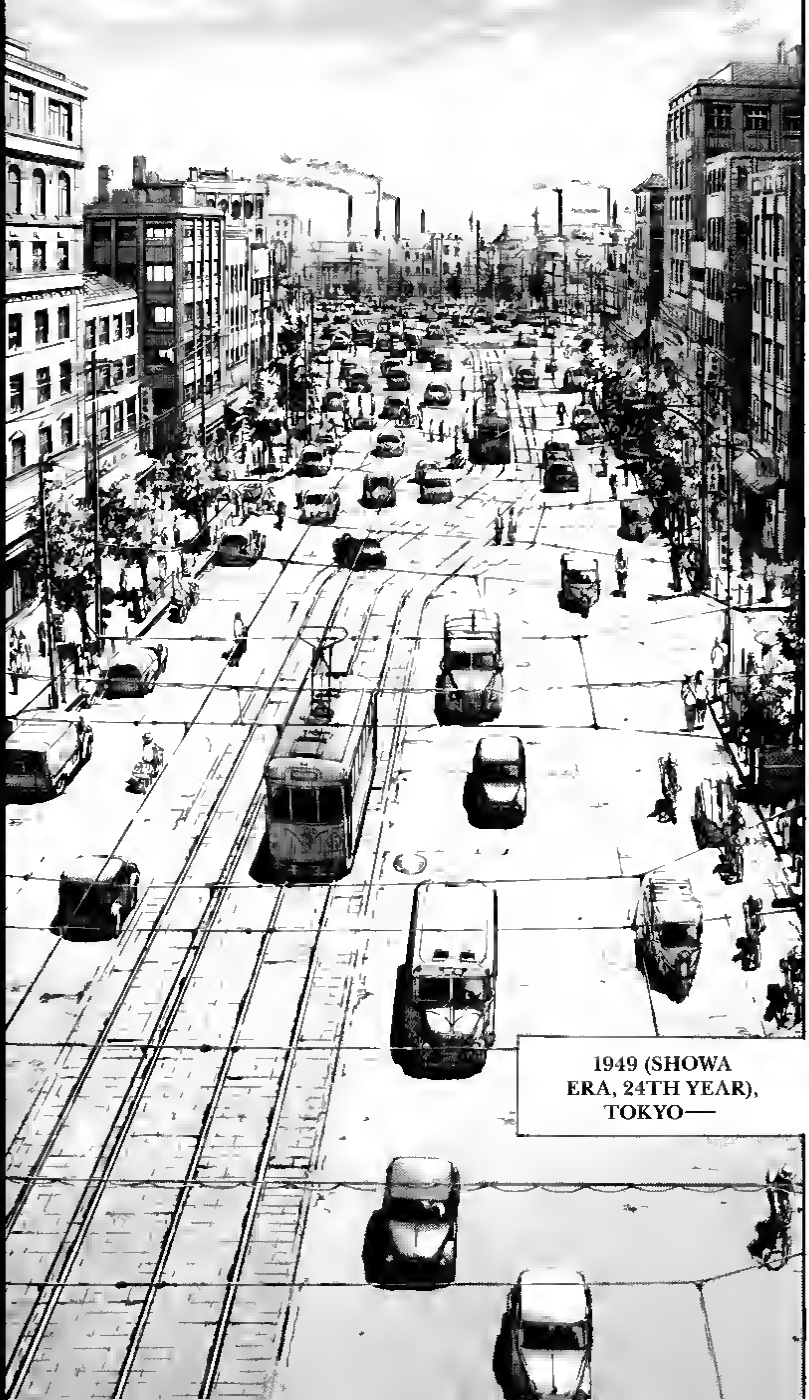
OH !?
PAT!
AHHH! HEY, DON'T TOUCH THOSE WITHOUT PERMIS-SION!!
WORK ...?
AH... SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DRAWS THIS...!!
WELL ... YES ...
HEY, ISN'T THIS THAT "BILLY BAT" COMIC!?
YES ...
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER IF YOU JUST READ IT IN PRINT.
AH... WELL, UH, THANKS.
IS THIS THE END OF THE BILLY DETECTIVE SERIES?
I ALWAYS READ IT!!

HM?
AHH, HEY ...!!
HEH... THIS COMIC'S REALLY THAT FAMOUS ...?
NO ...
WHAT? I HAVEN'T DRAWN ANYTHING THAT YOU POLICEMEN WOULD COMPLAIN ABOUT.
THIS BAT CHAR-ACTER ...
I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE ...
EH?

AH, I REMEMBER NOW!! THAT'S RIGHT. BACK WHEN I WAS WORKING SOMEWHERE ELSE...
THAT'S A CHARACTER I THOUGHT UP...
WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIS IS AN ORIGINAL CREATION I WORKED REALLY HARD TO THINK UP!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I GET IT. YOU'RE TRANSLATING IT AND RE-DRAWING IT, RIGHT?
AS WHAT ...?
BUT IT LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME ...
AS A JAP COMIC.

I SAW IT. EXACTLY THE SAME AS THIS.
A JAPA-NESE ...?
IN JAPAN ...




1949 (SHOWA
ERA, 24TH YEAR),
TOKYO—

BILLY BAT

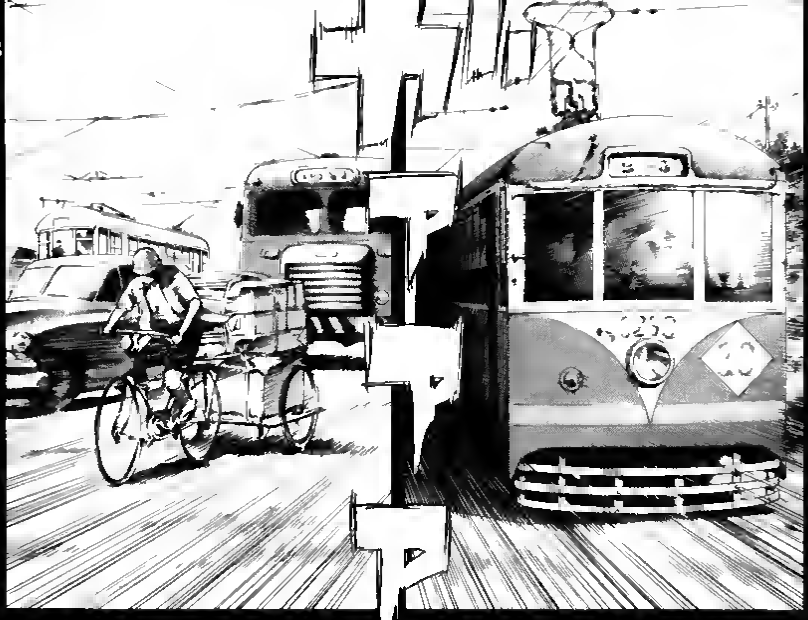
ビリーバット

1

浦沢直樹

＋ストーリー共同制作

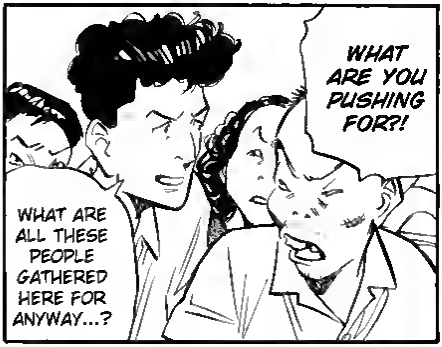
長崎尚志



1949 (SHOWA ERA, 24TH YEAR), TOKYO——

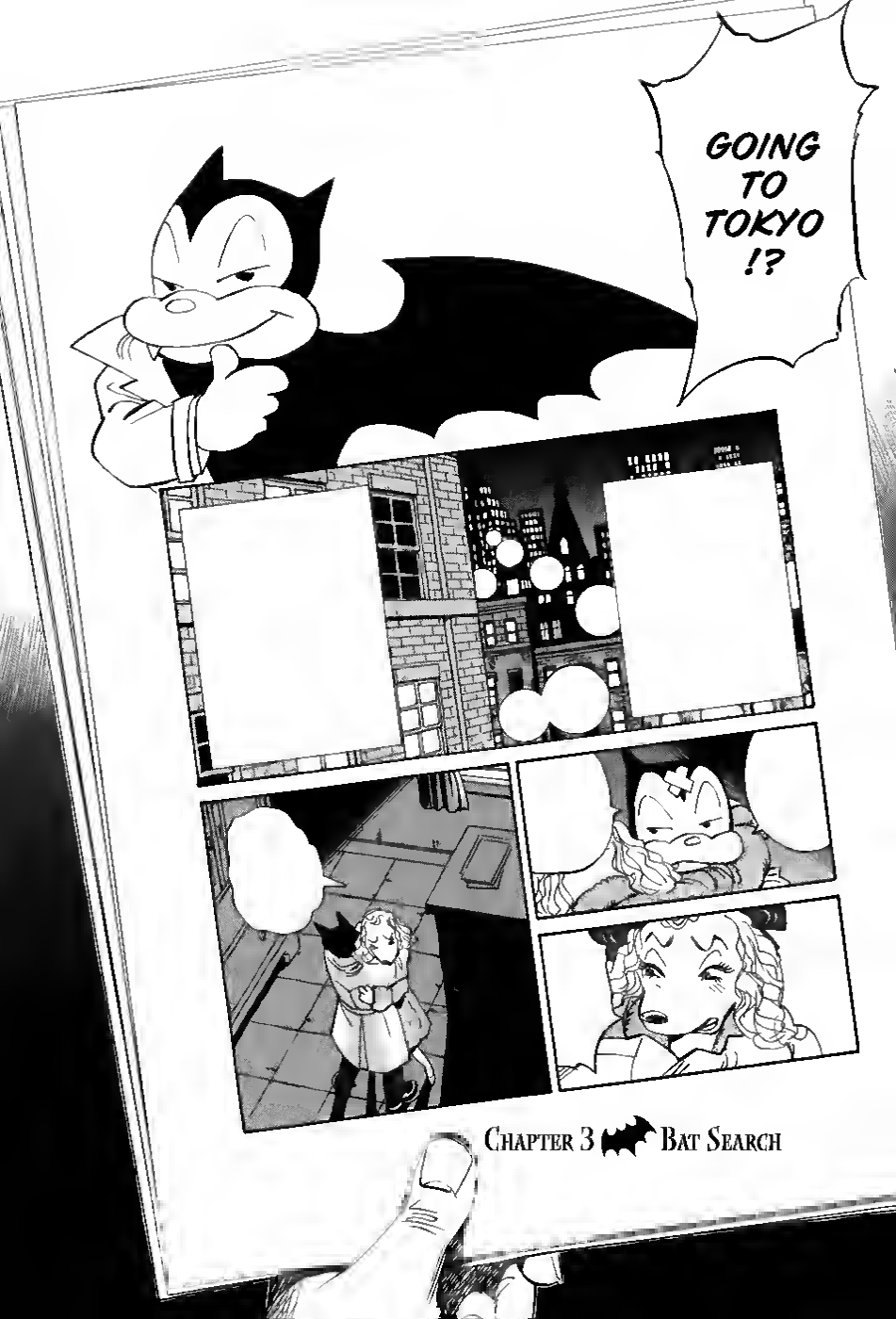
ALLIED POWERS
HEADQUARTERS
GHQ

HEY, LET ME THROUGH!


WHAT ARE YOU PUSHING FOR?!
WHAT ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE GATHERED HERE FOR ANYWAY...?

EXCUSE ME, PLEASE LET ME THROUGH ...!!

AHHH, THERE HE IS!!
WAH !!
WE'RE WAITING.
HE COMES OUT AT LUNCH-TIME.
WAITING ...?
LUNCH ...?
GEN-ERAL MAC-ARTH-UR!!
GEN-ERAL MAC-ARTH-UR!!
OWWW ...

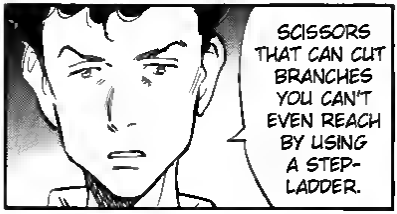


Chapter 3 Bat Search

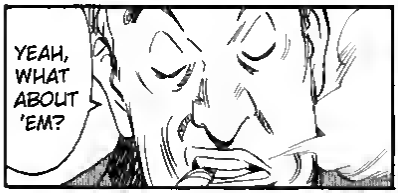
Y... YES.
AND YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE THIS HIT COMIC OF YOURS BEHIND?!
LOS ANGELES MARBLE COMICS
YOU REALLY WANNA ABAN-DON THAT?
HAVING YOUR COMIC BECOME A HIT IS LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY.
THINK ABOUT THIS CARE-FULLY, KEVIN.
I'M NOT ABAN-DONING IT...
N... NO,

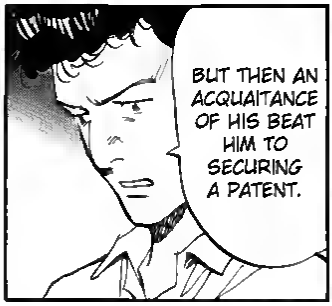
YET YOU WANT TO PUT IT ON A BREAK.
THE BILLY BAT SERIES IS CAPABLE OF OVERCOMING EVEN OTHER SERIES LIKE WONDER WOMAN...
EVEN IF YOU DO COME BACK FROM TOKYO, THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY ROOM LEFT FOR YOU HERE.
COMICS FANS ARE COLD, YOU KNOW!
MY ASSISTANT CHUCK WILL DRAW IT FOR ME WHILE I'M GONE.
THEY'LL SWITCH OVER TO THE NEXT NEW HERO BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK YOUR EYES.
COME ON NOW, KEVIN... WHO CARES IF IT'S STOLEN WORK?
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST PASS THE WORK OFF SO EASILY LIKE THAT?!

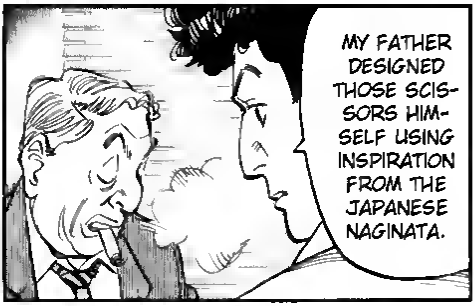
I HEARD THAT THERE WAS A CHARACTER EXACTLY THE SAME AS BILLY BAT IN JAPAN.
IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN I HAVE TO GO ASK FOR PERMISSION.
THERE IS A CHANCE I SAW IT WHILE STATIONED IN JAPAN.
AND SUBCONSCIOUSLY STOLE IT, YOU MEAN?
OF COURSE. I WOULD NEVER CONSCIOUSLY STEAL SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK!!
SUBCONSCIOUS STEALING ISN'T STEALING.
NO ONE'S GOING TO COME OUT AND SAY YOU STOLE FROM JUMP OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
MY FATHER WAS A GARDENER.
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
HE SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL COMING OVER HERE.
I KNOW, I KNOW... HE WAS SO POOR HE COULD BARELY SURVIVE, RIGHT?


SCISSORS THAT CAN CUT BRANCHES YOU CAN'T EVEN REACH BY USING A STEP-LADDER.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HIGH-BRANCH PRUNING SHEARS ARE?
HUH?

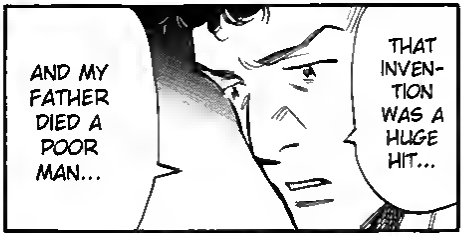

YEAH, WHAT ABOUT 'EM?

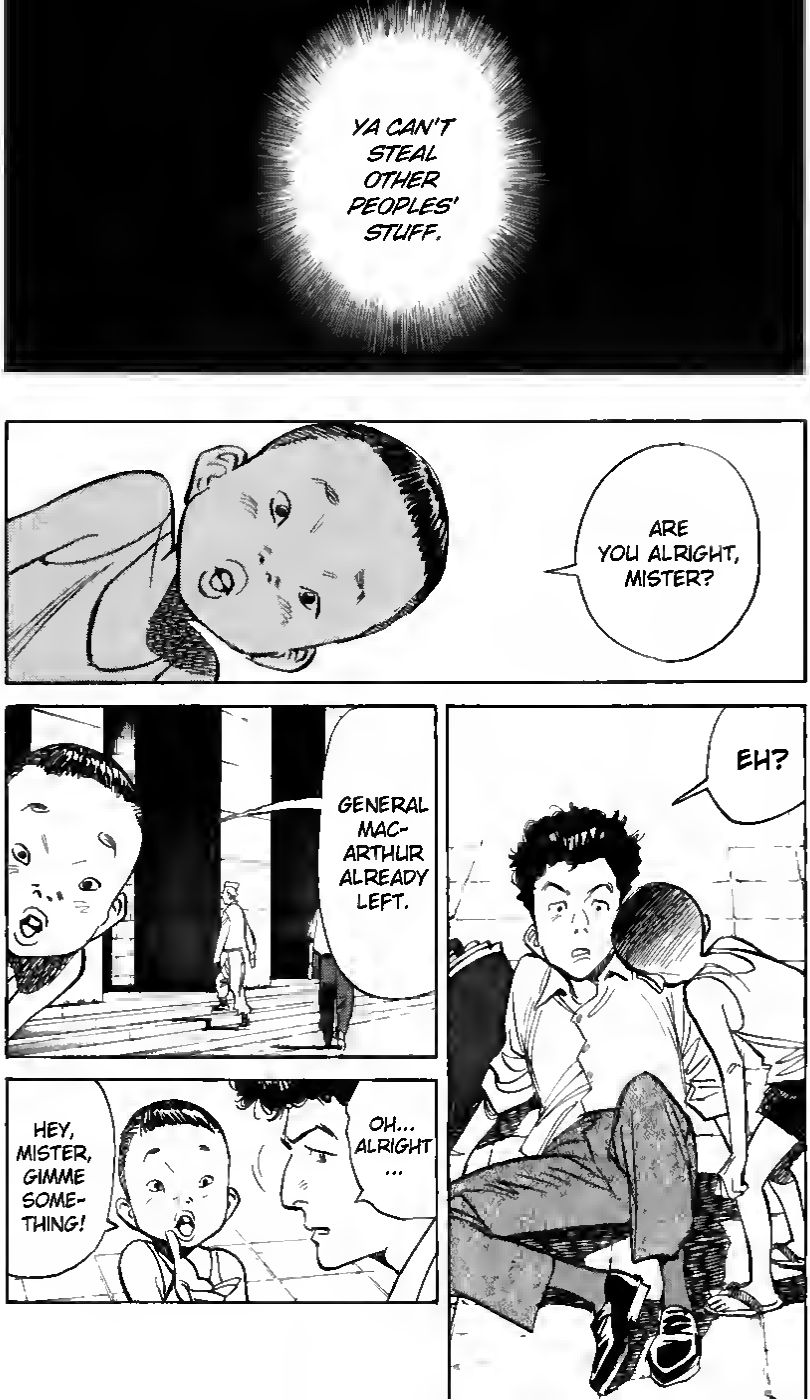

BUT THEN AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS BEAT HIM TO SECURING A PATENT.


MY FATHER DESIGNED THOSE SCISSORS HIMSELF USING INSPIRATION FROM THE JAPANESE NAGINATA.

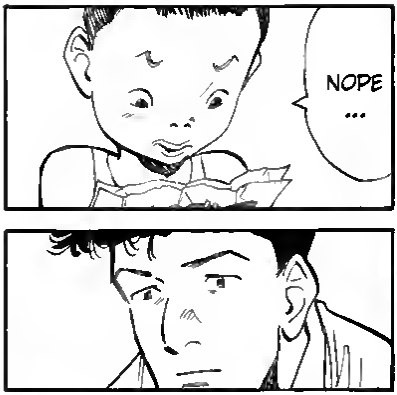
ON HIS DEATHBED, MY FATHER LEFT THESE WORDS TO ME...

SO THE OTHER GUY JUST HAPPENED TO THINK OF THE SAME THING. SO WHAT?


THAT INVENTION WAS A HUGE HIT...
AND MY FATHER DIED A POOR MAN...

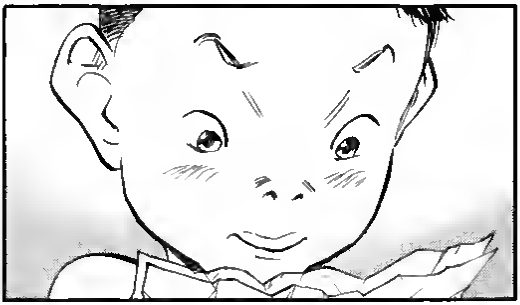

YA CAN'T STEAL OTHER PEOPLES' STUFF.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MISTER?
EH?
GENERAL MAC-ARTHUR ALREADY LEFT.
HEY, MISTER, GIMME SOME-THING!
OH... ALRIGHT ...

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT RIGHT NOW...
AH... SORRY.
AH...
TCH! ANOTHER BUST!
CHOCOLATE OR GUM OR SOMETHING!
GIVE YOU SOMETHING... WHAT...?
EH?
HEY, KID... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS BEFORE?
WAH, COOL, MANGA!!
KEVIN YAMAGATA
BILLY BAT
ICSAT NIGHT

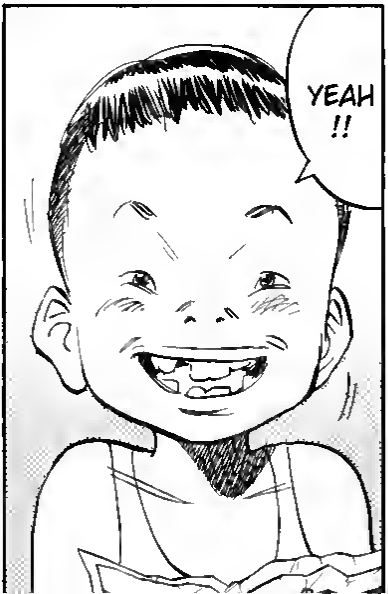

NOPE ...

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THIS ANYWHERE BEFORE?

YOU... LIKE MANGA?



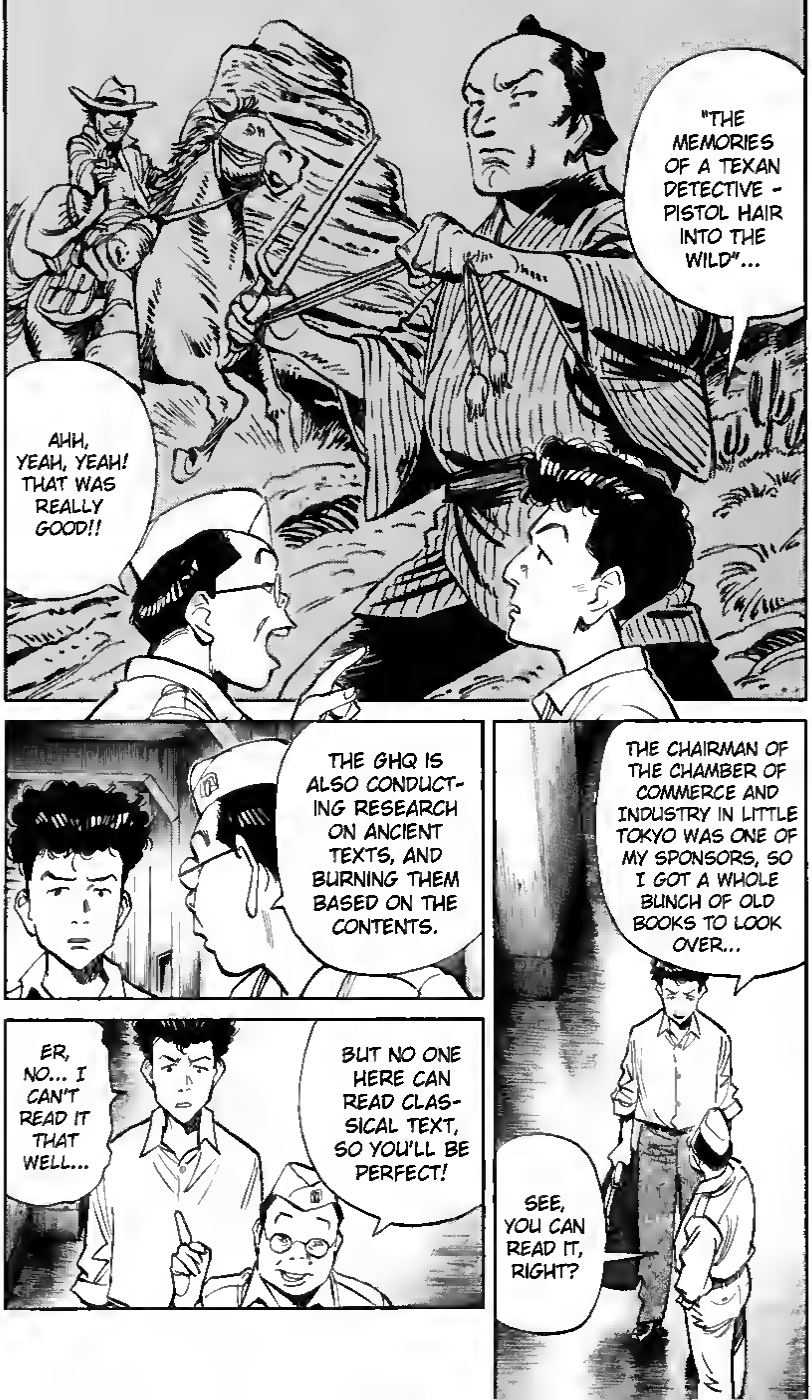
YOU PROBABLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT SINCE IT'S IN ENGLISH, THOUGH.
OH? THEN I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU.


YEAH !!

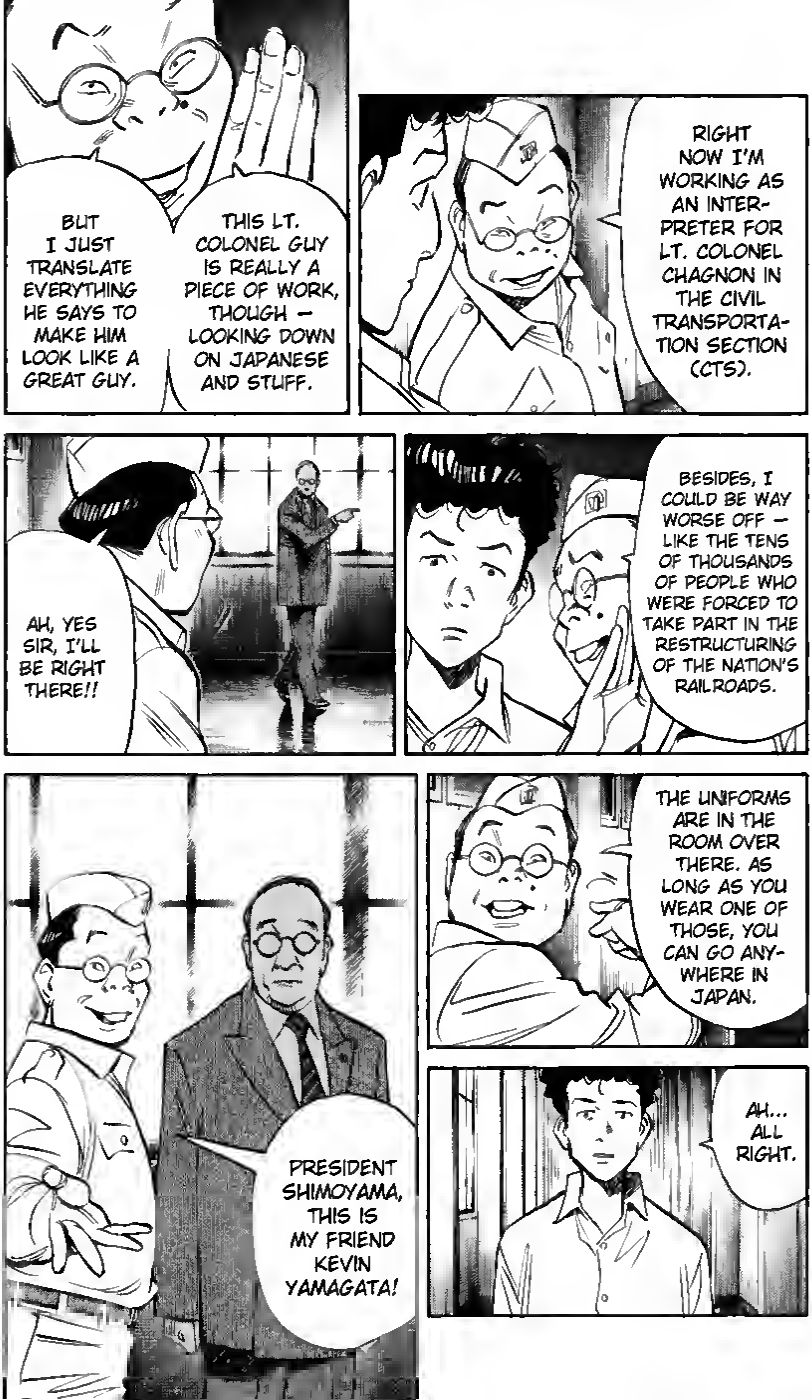
THANKS !!
REALLY?

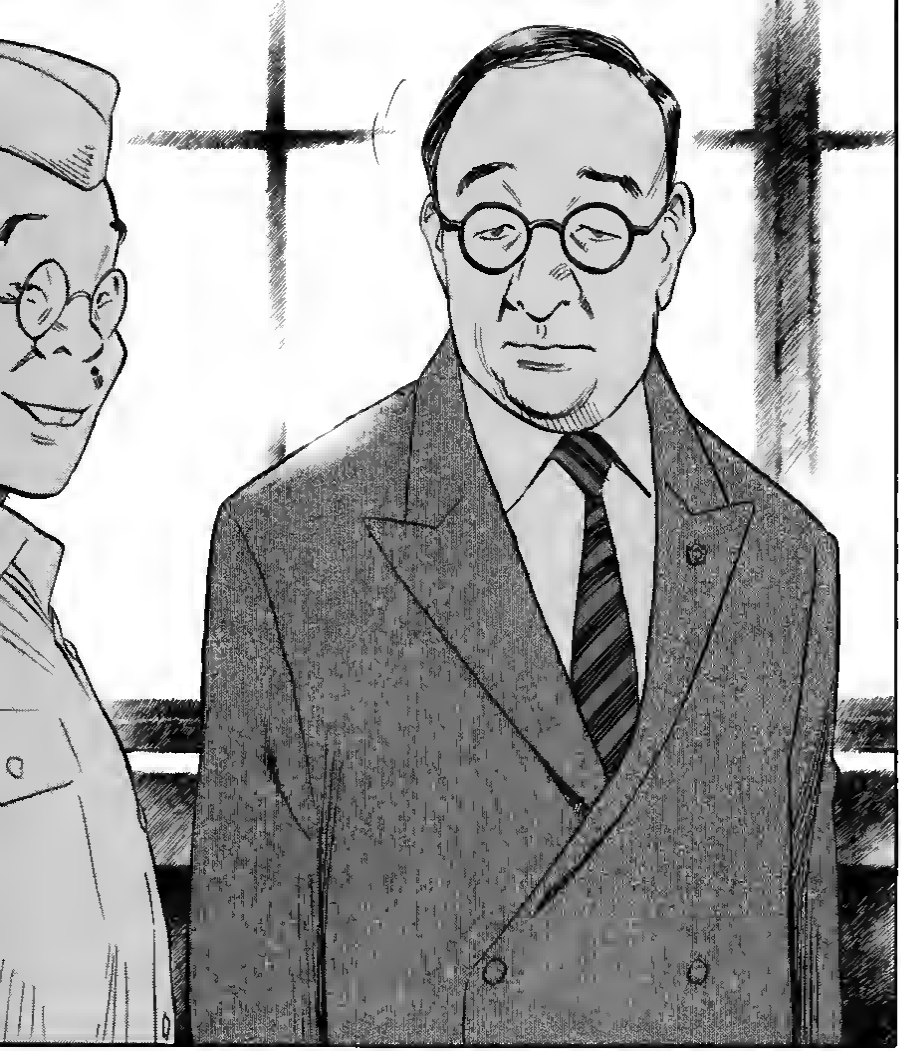
IF YOU READ IT WHILE YOU RUN YOU'LL GET HIT BY A TRAIN!!
PATA
PETA
HEY, KEVIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!!
YO!
EH ...
FIRST THINGS FIRST, YOU NEED TO CHANGE INTO A UNIFORM.

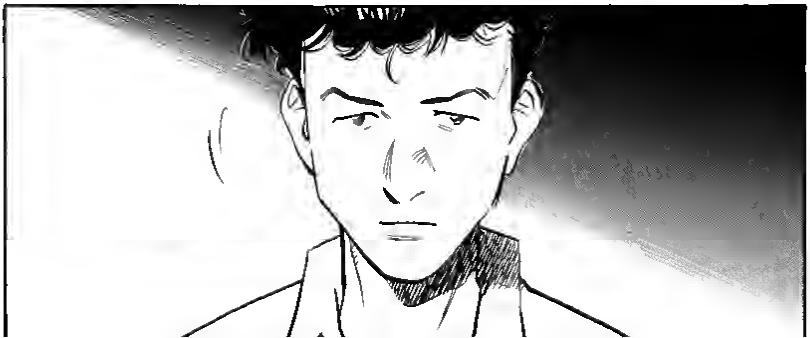
HOW DO YOU THINK YOU WERE ABLE TO GET BACK INTO JAPAN SO SMOOTHLY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CHARLIE, I'VE ALREADY RETIRED FROM THE SERVICE ...
WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS FULL HERE!
TRANS-LATION, INSPEC-TION...
RIGHT NOW THE AMERICAN FORCES ARE IN GREAT NEED OF JAPANESE. NO MATTER WHAT REASON THEY'RE HERE FOR, THEY ARE TO BE PUT INTO IMMEDIATE SERVICE.
AHH ...
YEAH, YEAH, SAMURAI MANGA!! WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT ONE...?
AH... THAT'S JUST SO I CAN RESEARCH PERIOD DRAMA MANGA...
EH?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT... YOU CAN READ CLASSICAL JAPANESE TEXT, CORRECT?


"THE MEMORIES OF A TEXAN DETECTIVE - PISTOL HAIR INTO THE WILD"...
AHH, YEAH, YEAH! THAT WAS REALLY GOOD!!
THE GHQ IS ALSO CONDUCTING RESEARCH ON ANCIENT TEXTS, AND BURNING THEM BASED ON THE CONTENTS.
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN LITTLE TOKYO WAS ONE OF MY SPONSORS, SO I GOT A WHOLE BUNCH OF OLD BOOKS TO LOOK OVER...
BUT NO ONE HERE CAN READ CLASSICAL TEXT, SO YOU'LL BE PERFECT!
ER, NO... I CAN'T READ IT THAT WELL...
SEE, YOU CAN READ IT, RIGHT?

AH... I ALSO GOT ORDERS TO SEARCH FOR ANCIENT TEXTS DEALING WITH SOME WEIRD SECRET ORGANIZATION ...
SECRET TEXTS ABOUT NINJA ARTS, LEGENDARY ANCIENT FIGHTING STYLES AND STUFF...
I GOT A LITTLE HELP MYSELF, AND FOUND SOME REALLY INTERESTING STUFF...
THEY SUPPOSEDLY USED A BAT AS THEIR SYMBOL. I GUESS GHQ'S SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING RELATED TO THAT...
SOMETHING ABOUT A SECRET ORGANIZATION BEFORE JAPAN WAS BORN...?
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK HERE AT GHQ, PRESIDENT!!
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE?
SPEAKING OF BATS, YOU REMINDED ME, CHARLIE.
.....
AH, GOOD MORNING, SIR!!

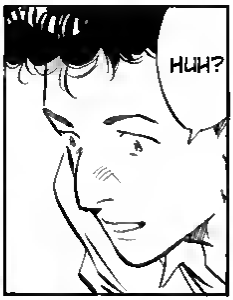

BUT I JUST TRANSLATE EVERYTHING HE SAYS TO MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE A GREAT GUY.
THIS LT. COLONEL GUY IS REALLY A PIECE OF WORK, THOUGH — LOOKING DOWN ON JAPANESE AND STUFF.
RIGHT NOW I'M WORKING AS AN INTER-PRETER FOR LT. COLONEL CHAGNON IN THE CIVIL TRANSPORTA-TION SECTION (CTS).
AH, YES SIR, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!!
BESIDES, I COULD BE WAY WORSE OFF — LIKE THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE FORCED TO TAKE PART IN THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE NATION'S RAILROADS.
PRESIDENT SHIMOYAMA, THIS IS MY FRIEND KEVIN YAMAGATA!
THE UNIFORMS ARE IN THE ROOM OVER THERE. AS LONG AS YOU WEAR ONE OF THOSE, YOU CAN GO ANY-WHERE IN JAPAN.
AH... ALL RIGHT.





THIS HAT IS TOO SMALL ...
HUH ...?
OVER THERE.
HEY, KID, WHAT'S WRONG?

WH... WHAT IS IT ...!?


HUH?

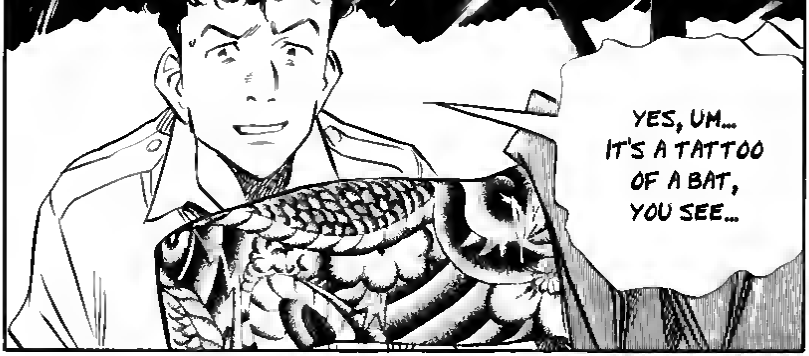
Y... YES.

ARE YOU THE ONE SEARCH-ING FOR THESE PICTURES?

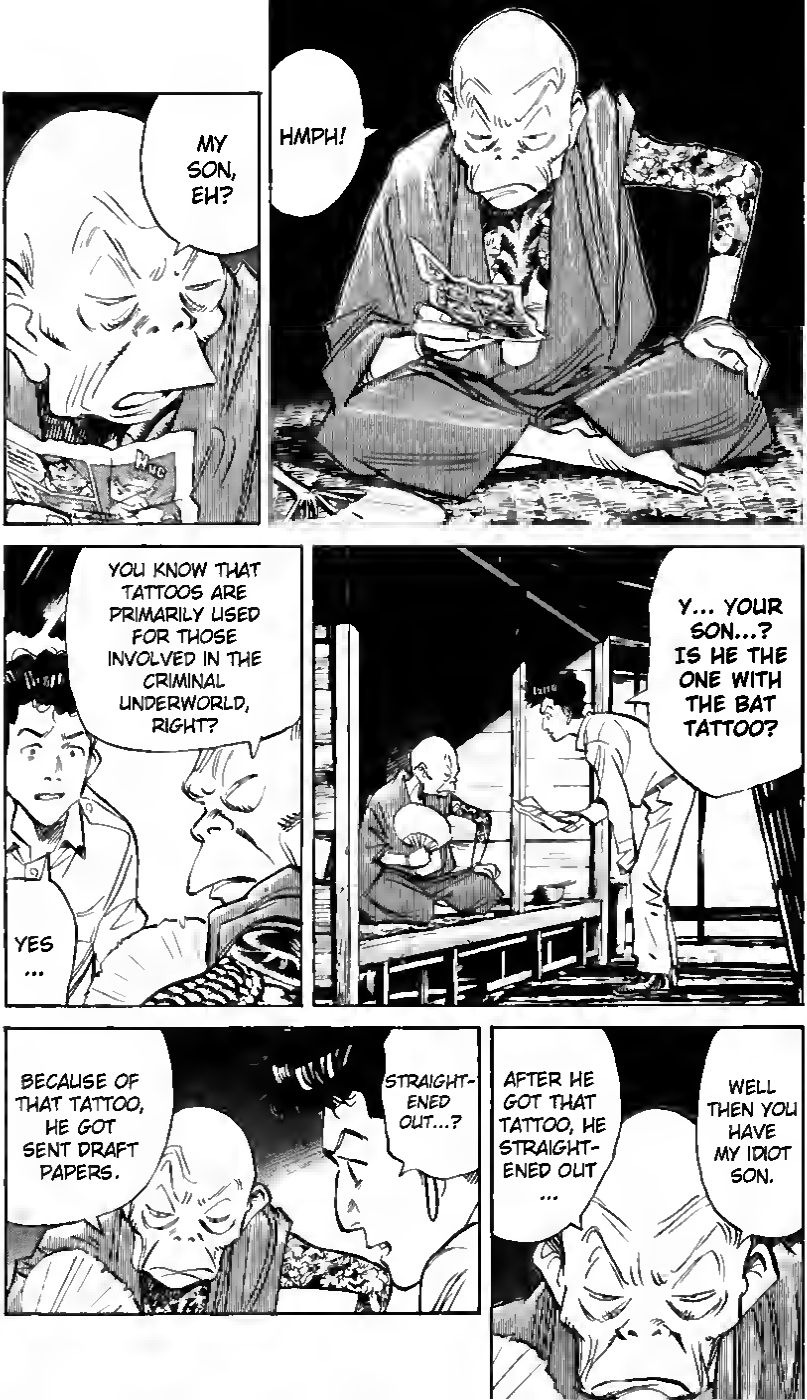
I'VE SEEN THIS BAT BEFORE ...
BILLY BAT
EH?
WHERE DID YOU SEE IT?
IT WAS A TATTOO,
ON THE BACK OF A CERTAIN MAN...

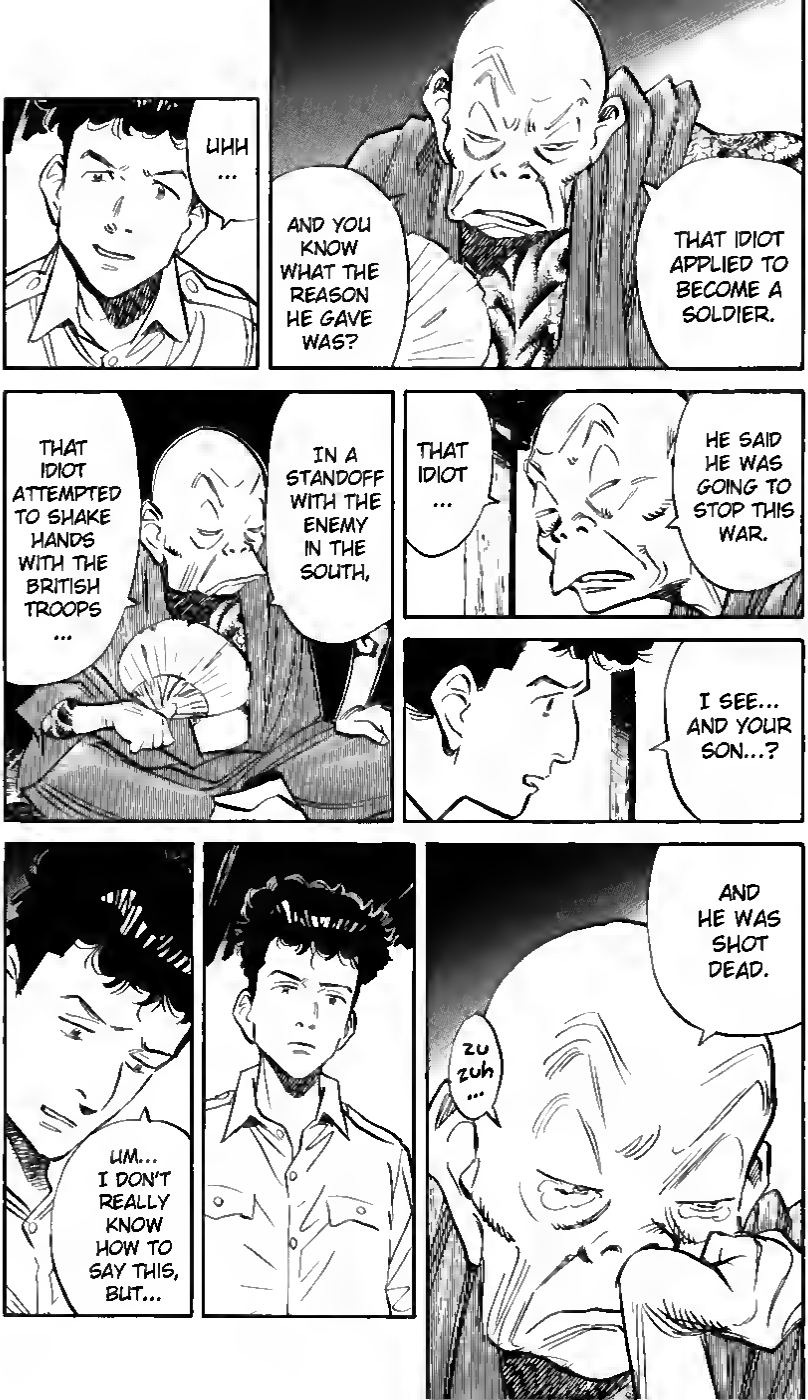
A PUBLIC BATH ...?
YEAH... THERE USED TO BE ONE HERE.
BUT IT WAS BURNED DOWN IN THE WAR.
IS THAT SO...? HOW SAD ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE'RE THE ONES THAT ARE SAD!
YOU LOOK JAPANESE, BUT YOU'RE WEARING AN AMERICAN UNIFORM, SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE AN AMERICAN-BORN JAPANESE, RIGHT?

I'D LIKE TO HEAR THEM SAY THAT AFTER LOOKING AT MY BURNED-DOWN HOUSE AND THE REMAINS OF THAT PUBLIC BATH!
THERE ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS SAYING THAT THEY DIDN'T DROP THE BOMB, YOU KNOW?
AH... YEAH.
THE BOSS IS OVER THERE!
WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT?
AH... I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT TO SAY...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I COULD FIND THE TATTOOED MAN AROUND HERE?
UM ...
TATTOO ...?

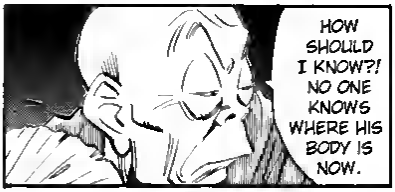

YES, UM... IT'S A TATTOO OF A BAT, YOU SEE...

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS...
KEVIN YAMAGATA
BILLY BAT
ANCIENT NIGHT
No!
No!

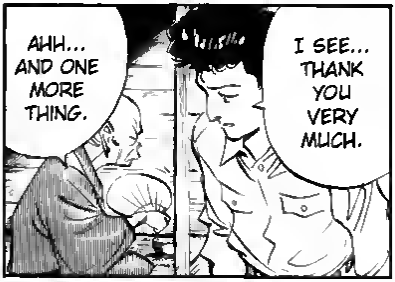

MY SON, EH?
HMPH!
YOU KNOW THAT TATTOOS ARE PRIMARILY USED FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD, RIGHT?
YES ...
Y... YOUR SON...? IS HE THE ONE WITH THE BAT TATTOO?
BECAUSE OF THAT TATTOO, HE GOT SENT DRAFT PAPERS.
STRAIGHT-ENED OUT...?
AFTER HE GOT THAT TATTOO, HE STRAIGHT-ENED OUT ...
WELL THEN YOU HAVE MY IDIOT SON.


UHH ...
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE REASON HE GAVE WAS?
THAT IDIOT APPLIED TO BECOME A SOLDIER.
THAT IDIOT ATTEMPTED TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE BRITISH TROOPS ...
IN A STANDOFF WITH THE ENEMY IN THE SOUTH,
THAT IDIOT ...
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO STOP THIS WAR.
I SEE... AND YOUR SON...?
UM... I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT...
ZU ZUH ...
AND HE WAS SHOT DEAD.

I DON'T THINK YOUR SON WAS AN IDIOT.

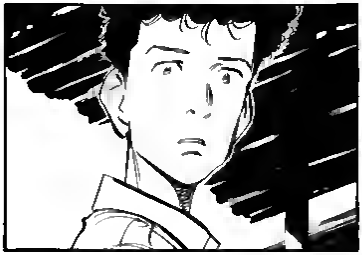

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?! NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HIS BODY IS NOW.

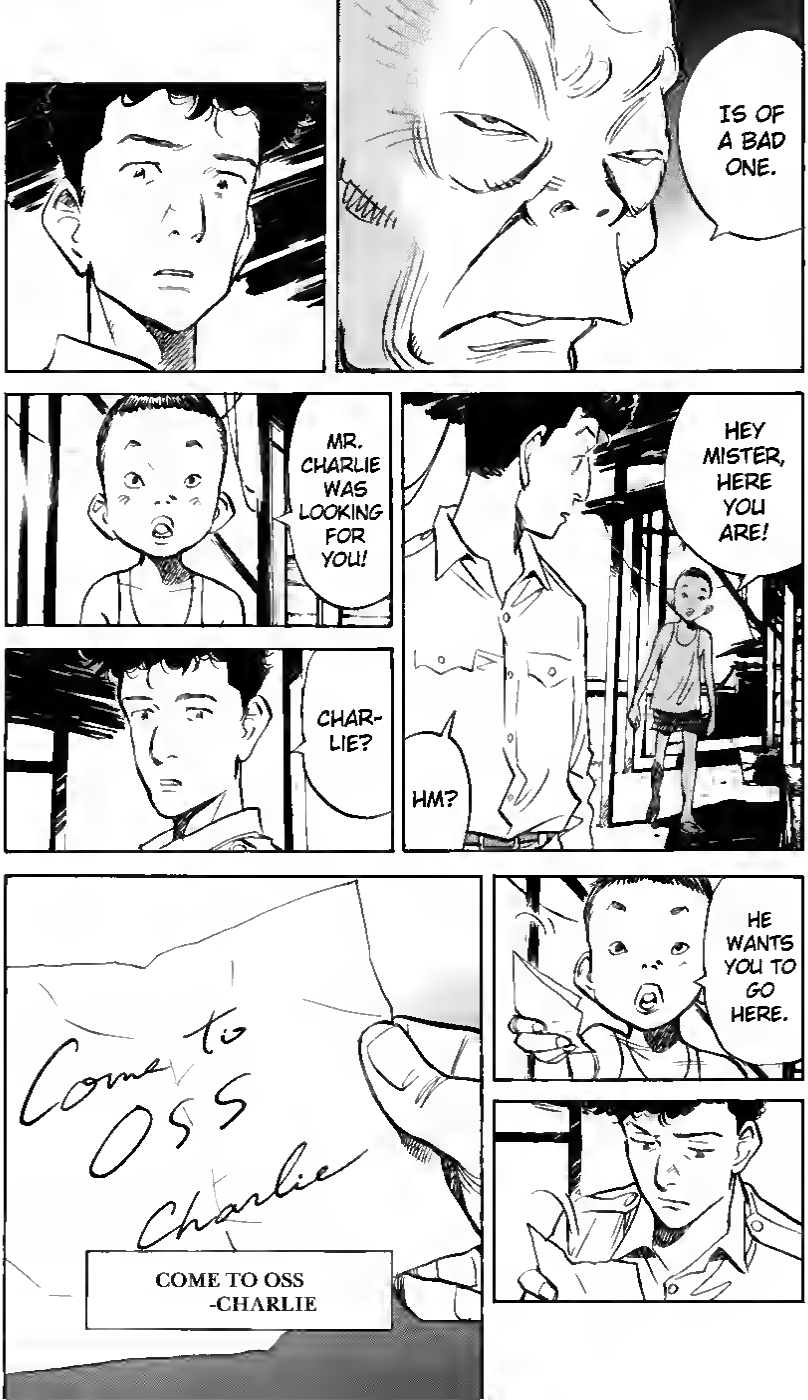
HMPH!
...AND, ABOUT THE TATTOO ...?


I SEE... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AHH... AND ONE MORE THING.

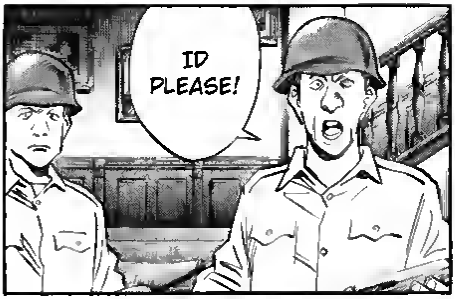
THAT BAT TATTOO HE HAD WAS A NICE ONE, BUT...
THE OTHER BAT TATTOO THAT EXISTS ...

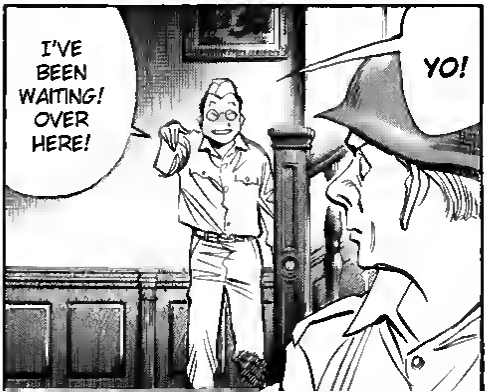
THAT IDIOT USED TO SAY SOME WEIRD STUFF.

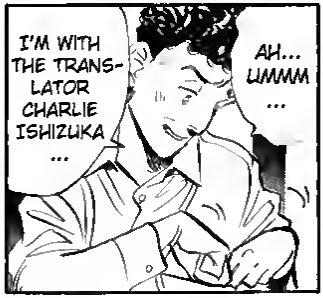



IS OF A BAD ONE.
MR. CHARLIE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
HEY MISTER, HERE YOU ARE!
CHAR-LIE?
HM?
Come to OSS Charlie
COME TO OSS -CHARLIE
HE WANTS YOU TO GO HERE.

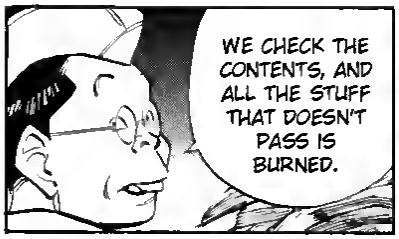
OSS
OSS
OSS

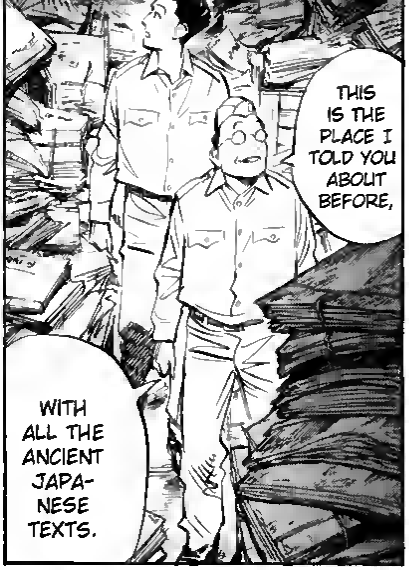

ID PLEASE!

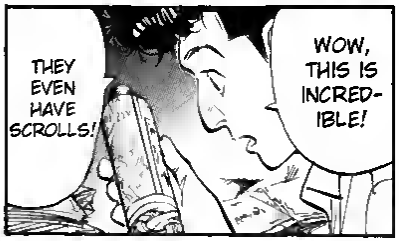

I'VE BEEN WAITING! OVER HERE!
YO!


I'M WITH THE TRANS-LATOR CHARLIE ISHIZUKA ...
AH... UMMM ...

OSS... THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES ...
YOU'VE NEVER WORKED HERE BEFORE?
NO, I JUST DID TRANS-LATION FOR THE PATROLS.
AH, HERE WE ARE.
Ga Cha
LOOK AT THIS!
UWAA ...!!


WE CHECK THE CONTENTS, AND ALL THE STUFF THAT DOESN'T PASS IS BURNED.

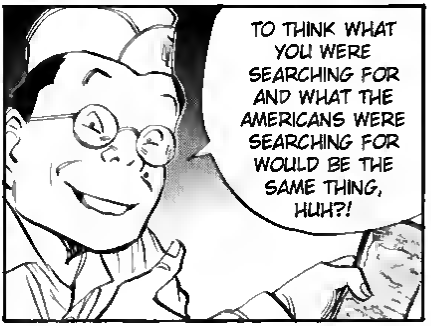

THIS IS THE PLACE I TOLD YOU ABOUT BEFORE,
WITH ALL THE ANCIENT JAPA-NESE TEXTS.


WOW, THIS IS INCRED-IBLE!
THEY EVEN HAVE SCROLLS!

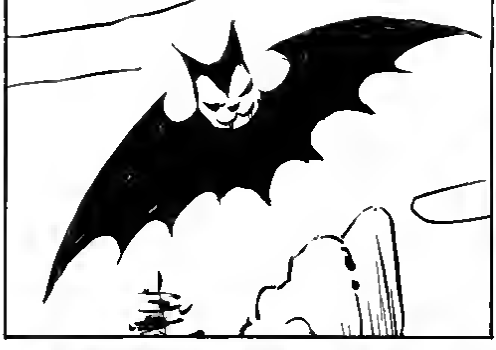
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SHOW ME...?
SOME-THING I FOUND.

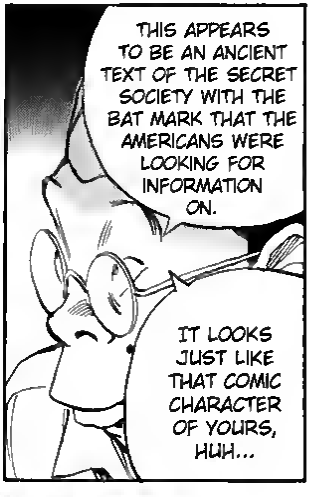
THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN BETTER THAN THAT I WANT TO SHOW YOU. COME THIS WAY.

EH ...


TO THINK WHAT YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR AND WHAT THE AMERICANS WERE SEARCHING FOR WOULD BE THE SAME THING, HUH?!

WHAT IS THIS ...
黒蝙蝠宮本
HERE... LOOK!
AH ...




THIS APPEARS TO BE AN ANCIENT TEXT OF THE SECRET SOCIETY WITH THE BAT MARK THAT THE AMERICANS WERE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON.
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THAT COMIC CHARACTER OF YOURS, HUH...

.....

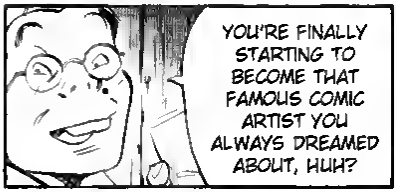
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE TAKING THAT BOOK OUTSIDE ...

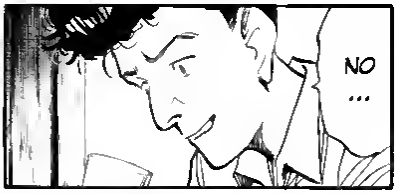
EH ...
WANNA GO GET SOME LUNCH? THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT

やきとり
やきとり

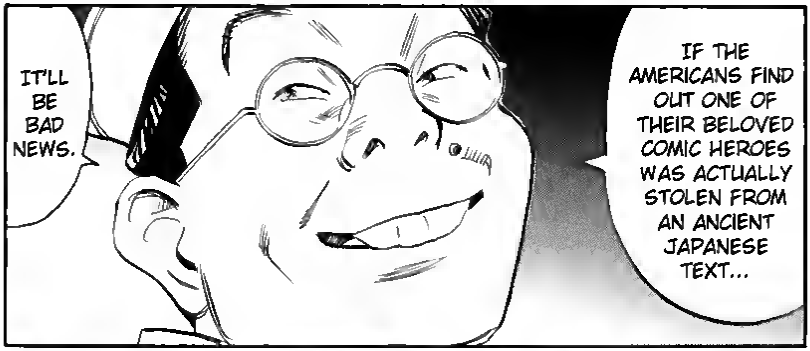
HEY, BROTHER! WHAT KIND OF MEAT IS THIS?
HEH HEH HEH...
EH?
...WELL? THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT, IS THERE?
.....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HEH HEH HEH?! GIMME A BREAK ...
I HAVE NO MEMORY OF EVER LOOKING AT A BOOK LIKE THIS ...
I WONDER ...
IT'S YOUR BAT CHARACTER, RIGHT?
THE BAT FROM THIS TEXT!
NO... I'M PRETTY SURE YOU MUST HAVE SEEN THIS BACK WHEN YOU WERE STATIONED HERE IN JAPAN.

NO, I REALLY DON'T
REMEM-BER...
AH... NO, NOTHING ...
WHAT'S WRONG ?
THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE WE CAN FIGURE OUT WITHOUT GIVING IT A DEEP INSPECTION, BUT THAT'S THE JIST OF IT.
.....


YOU'RE FINALLY STARTING TO BECOME THAT FAMOUS COMIC ARTIST YOU ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT, HUH?

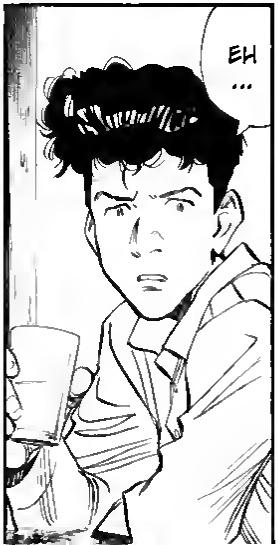

NO ...

THAT COMIC OF YOURS... IS A BIG HIT, RIGHT?
NO... I STILL NEED TO WORK HARDER ON IT.


IF THE AMERICANS FIND OUT ONE OF THEIR BELOVED COMIC HEROES WAS ACTUALLY STOLEN FROM AN ANCIENT JAPANESE TEXT...
IT'LL BE BAD NEWS.

IF THEY FIND OUT, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR POPU-LARITY.

W... WELL, I...
HEY, BROTHER! WHAT KIND OF SAKE IS THIS?


EH ...

IF YOU PAY ME... I'LL KEEP QUIET FOR YOU.
HEH HEH HEH...
DON'T GIMME THAT! I JUST WANNA KNOW WHAT KIND OF ALCOHOL IT IS!
I'M SAYING, YOU'D GONNA HAVE TO PAY UP IF YOU WANT ME TO KEEP THIS UNDER WRAPS.
EH ...
JUST A LITTLE IS FINE.
M... MONEY? H... HOW MUCH...
I HAVEN'T STOLEN ANY-THING ...!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, CHAR-LIE?!
WHAT MATTERS IS WHETHER I KEEP QUIET OR NOT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU REALLY DID OR NOT,

Heh heh heh...
WHAT'S IN THIS SAKE, BROTHER?
STOP...
STOP!
STOOOOP!
JUST A LITTLE IS FINE ...
KILL HIM.

BILLY BAT...!!
UNLESS YOU KILL HIM, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP DRAWING THE COMIC.
WHO ARE YOU ...?
IT'S ME, ME...
HEY, LOOK!
YOU'LL GET SUPER RICH!!
IF YOU KEEP IT UP, THOUGH,
KEVIN LAND
IT'S THE HUGE AMUSEMENT PARK, KEVIN-LAND!!

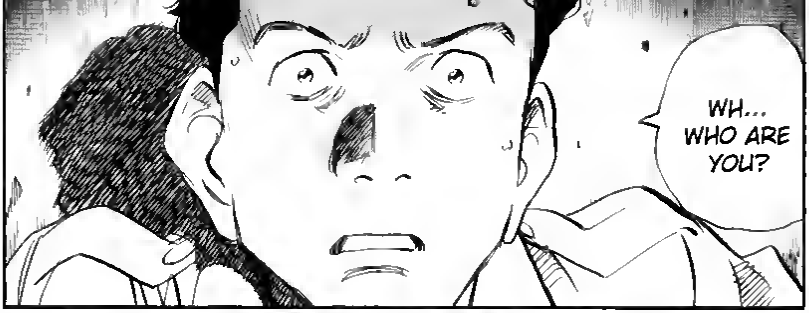
WOW, KEVIN!! IT'S LIKE A DREAM!!
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS KILL HIM!!
OUR DREAMS ARE ONLY A FEW MORE STEPS AWAY!!
Uuu...
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

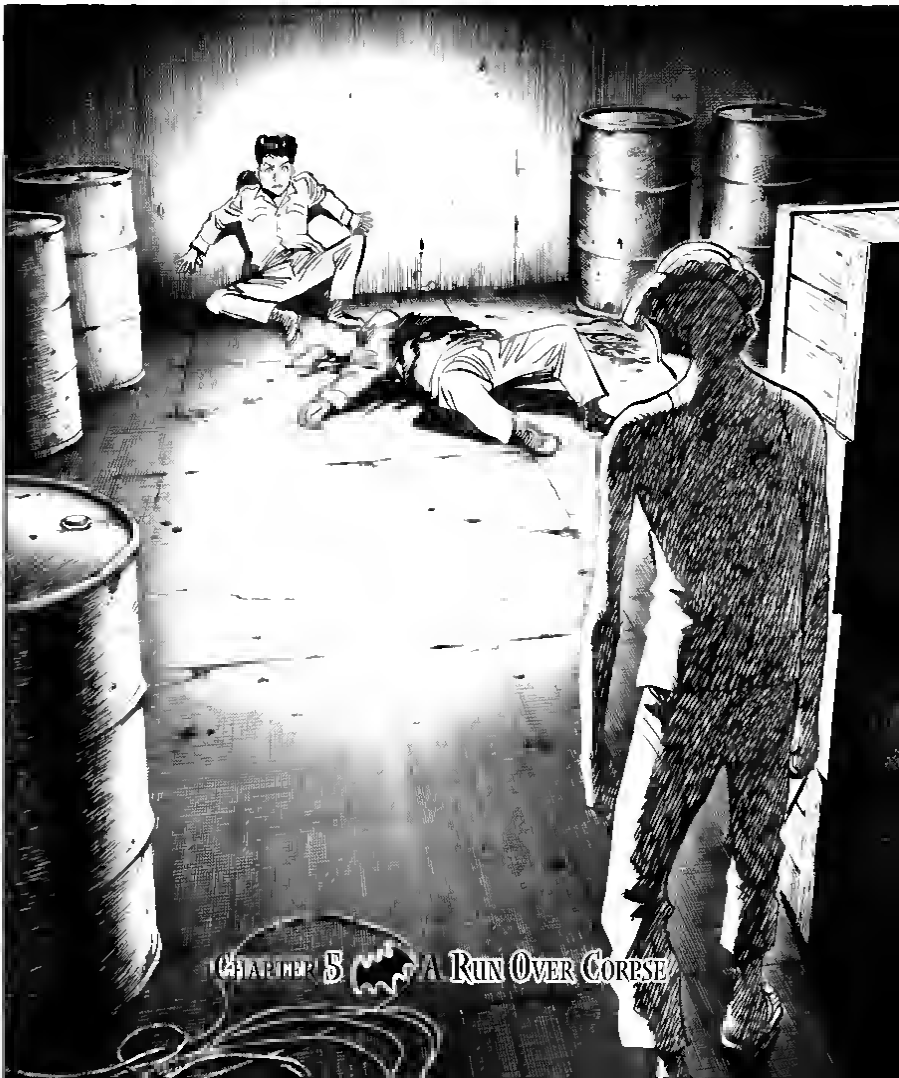
AAAAHHHHHHHH!!
AH...
AH...

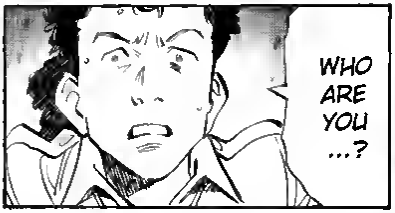
AAAA
AAAA

AAAH
HHHH
HH!!

SHUT UP
ALREADY
...
AHHHHHHH!!

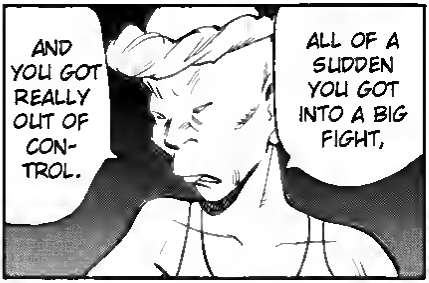

WH... WHO ARE YOU?


CHAPTER 5
A RUN OVER CORPSE


WHO ARE YOU ...?

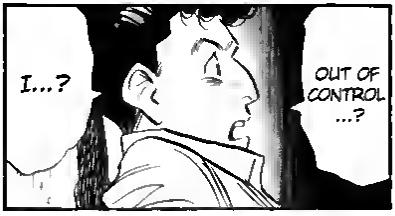
GEEZ ...

I'M SICK OF THIS... YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T REMEMBER?
YOU WERE DRINKING ABOUT MY PLACE, RIGHT?

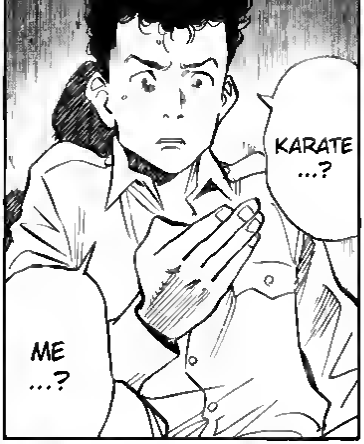

ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU GOT INTO A BIG FIGHT,
AND YOU GOT REALLY OUT OF CONTROL.

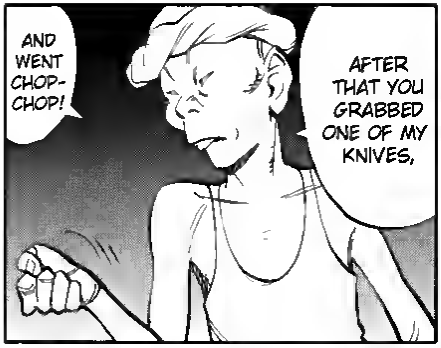
DRINKING...?
AH... THE YAKITORI RESTAURANT...

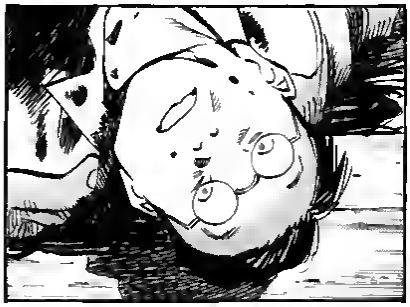
A KARATE CHOP?
ONE HIT, AND BAM!


OUT OF CONTROL ...?
I...?

WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS...?
?


KARATE ...?
ME ...?


AFTER THAT YOU GRABBED ONE OF MY KNIVES,
AND WENT CHOP-CHOP!



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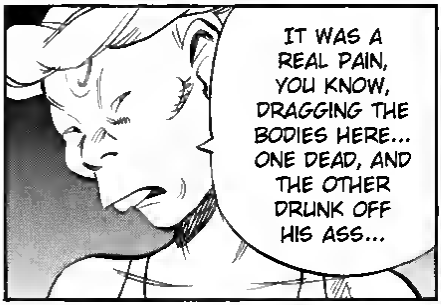
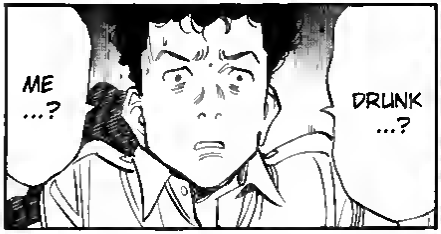

IT WAS A REAL PAIN, YOU KNOW, DRAGGING THE BODIES HERE... ONE DEAD, AND THE OTHER DRUNK OFF HIS ASS...

THIS IS A REAL MESS... ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M DOING BUSINESS WITH STOLEN GOODS HERE
THE DAY A MURDER HAPPENS IN YOUR SHOP, THAT'S THE END OF IT.

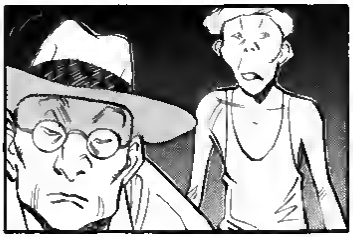

DRUNK ...?
ME ...?

!!
I...
AH, SORRY TO CALL YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
.....

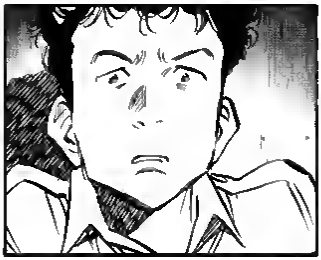
YOU REALLY DID IT THIS TIME.
OH MY... THIS IS A REAL SHAME.
KURUSU FROM EAST ASIAN INDUS-TRIES.
WH... WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE WEARING THEIR UNIFORM, AREN'T YOU?
I-I AM KEVIN YAMAGATA... BUT I'M NOT WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY!!
YOU'D BETTER ANSWER HON-ESTLY HERE, GOT IT? THE AMERICANS CAN FIND OUT ALL ABOUT YOU BY CHECKING WITH GHQ.
EAST ASIAN INDUS-TRIES ...?

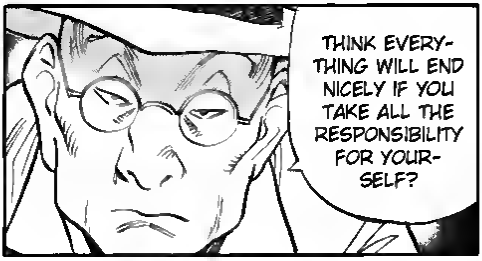
HMPH.
WHATEVER THE CASE, YOU KILLED A FELLOW AMERICAN SOLDIER... THIS ISN'T AN EASY THING TO GET OUT OF...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!!
I'M A COMIC ARTIST WHO CAME HERE FROM AMERICA SEARCHING FOR A BAT CHARACTER...
Uu...
There's no choice!
.....
MP ...?
This is a crime I committed...
I'll just have to turn myself into the Military Police...

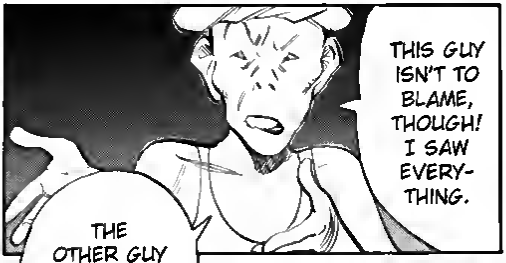
WHAT'LL WE DO...!?
B... BUT ...



IF THE AMERICANS FIND OUT ABOUT THIS, THAT ENTIRE TOWN BLOCK WILL BE COMPLETELY PULLED UP.




THINK EVERY-THING WILL END NICELY IF YOU TAKE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR-SELF?


THIS GUY ISN'T TO BLAME, THOUGH! I SAW EVERY-THING.

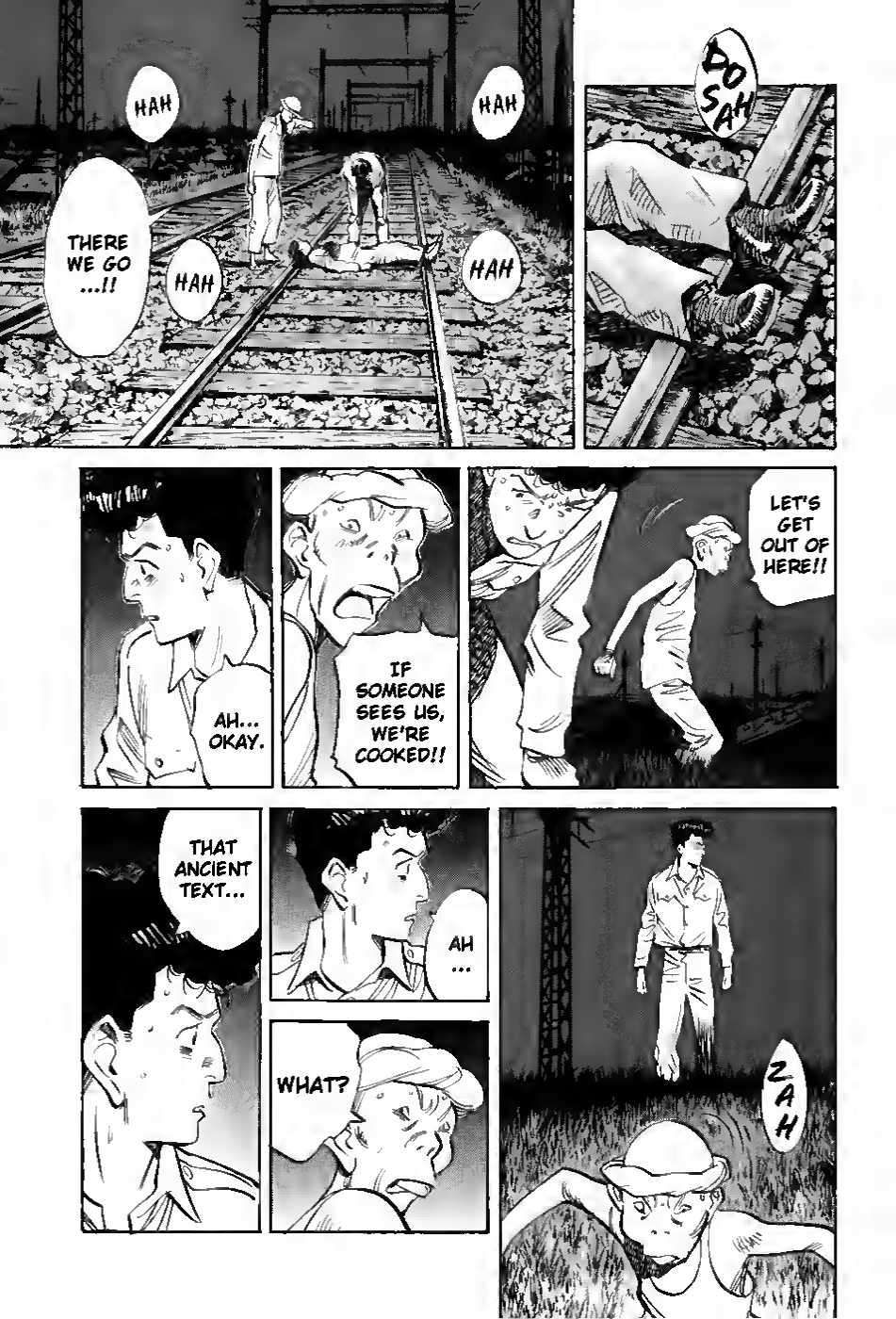
THE OTHER GUY WAS THREAT-ENING HIM, AND HE PROB-ABLYJUST LOST HIS TEMPER!

SINS AREN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN ERASE WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
WHATEVER THE CASE, HE STILL KILLED SOMEONE.
SO HE'S NOT TO...
THERE IS A WAY TO ATONE FOR IT.
BUT IF YOU SHUT THAT SIN UP IN YOUR HEART ...
D... DRIVER ...?
I TALKED TO THE DRIVER.
WHAT'LL IT BE?
WHAT'LL IT BE...?

WELL, WHAT-EVER.
GET THIS OUT OF HERE.
WA... WAIT A M... MINUTE!
WH... WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
YOU'RE TAKING THIS BODY OUT OF HERE!
EH ...?
THIS ...
WAS A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ...

HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
KEEP A FIRM GRIP ON IT!
IT'S SO... HEAVY ...!!
AH... AHHHH ... BUT ...
HAH
HAH
PATHETIC!! JUST WHO DO YOU THINK I'M DOING ALL THIS WORK FOR, ANYWAY?!
HAH
UWAHHH!!

AWW, COME ON! GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE ...
HAH
HAH
HAH
THE STRETCHER AND THIS GUY COMBINED IS JUST TOO HEAVY FOR YOU!
WE'LL BRING HIM UP JUST LIKE THIS. GIMME A HAND!
EH ...
UU ...
MOVE IT!!
HURRY IT UP!!
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!!


HAH
HAH
THERE WE GO ...!!
HAH
HAH
DO SAH
AH... OKAY.
IF SOMEONE SEES US, WE'RE COOKED!!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
THAT ANCIENT TEXT...
AH ...
WHAT?
ZAH

WHAT HAPPENED TO IT...?
THE ANCIENT TEXT WITH THE BAT IN IT...
HUH?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? LET'S GO!
AH... OKAY.
GA TA N
GA TA N
GA TA N
GA TA N

Gatan
Gatan
Gatan
Gatan
Gatan
HEY THERE, BROTHER!
WANNA PLAY?
WE'LL MAKE IT NICE AND CHEAP FOR YOU! COME ON, LET'S PLAY A LITTLE...
GYAAH!

YOU'RE A TERRIBLE DRUNK, YOU KNOW!
HMPH! ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY BECAUSE YOU'RE WITH THE AMERICANS!!
uu ...
YOTON
OOEHHH!
Haa
Haa
Haa

YA CAN'T STEAL OTHER PEOPLES' STUFF.
I...
STOLE THE ONE THING YOU SHOULD ABSOLUTELY NEVER STEAL FROM ANOTHER ...
DADDY ...
Uahh...
Uaaaahhhh...
Uwahh...
Uaahh...
HEY, SOLDIER.

Hic!
Hic!
I'M NOT A SOLDIER!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MR. SOLDIER?
OH MY.
I'M A COMIC ARTIST !!
BUT YOU'RE WEARING A UNI-FORM!
THEY'RE TEACHERS OF JUSTICE!!
COMIC ARTISTS GIVE COURAGE TO CHILDREN !!

BUT I...
DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO DRAW COMICS...
HOW WONDER-FUL!
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIFE...
YOU CAN'T GO AND DIE.
THAT'S NO GOOD.
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF REASON YOU MAY THINK YOU HAVE...

EVERY DAY IS SO HARD FOR US THAT IT MAKES US FEEL LIKE DYING,
BUT WE GO ON LIVING.
THE WAR ENDED AND WE SUR-VIVED.
YOU CAN'T GO AND DIE.
EH?
COME WITH ME, MR. SOL-DIER.
N... NO...
C'MON, JUST STAND UP.

WHEN WE CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, WE COME HERE,
C'MON, THIS WAY.
GOD ...?
AND PRAY TO THIS GOD. IF WE DO THAT, WE SOMEHOW MANAGE TO GATHER THE STRENGTH TO KEEP LIVING.

IS THIS ...
IS...
WHAT I SAW ...!?